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AND SUBSEQUENTLY

IN THE SERVICE OF HIS LATE MAJESTY

THE EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

LONDON:

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1871.

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DEDICATION.

(By Permission.)

TO HIS SERENE HIGHNESS THE PRINCE OF TECK, G.C.B.

Sir,

Knowing the great friendship formerly existing between Your Serene Highness and my lamented master, the late Emperor Maximilian, the unfortunate circumstances attending the latter portion of whose life, I have in the following pages endeavoured to describe, I venture most respectfully to dedicate this volume to Your Highness, as a slight token of my gratitude, for the many kindnesses I have received at Your Highness' hands.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your Highness' Obedient Servant,

J. J. KENDALL.

Junior United Service Club, 1*st November*, 1871.

MEXICO UNDER MAXIMILIAN.

CHAPTER I.

It was on new year's day of the year 1865, that I and my wife embarked on board the steamer "Sierra Nevada," at San Francisco, bound for the Mexican ports on the Pacific. We had arrived at San Francisco a week or two before, after a series of wanderings in the United States, and British North American possessions, and the rest at "The Occidental Hotel," at San Francisco, which is, by the way, one of the most comfortable in America, was very acceptable after so much travelling, and a couple of weeks were very agreeably spent in seeing the sights of the place. Among the latter may be noticed the two "seal-rocks," as they are called, situated on the sea coast, within a pleasant drive of the city.

They are each about an acre in extent, forming two small islands half-a-mile from the mainland, and are completely covered with huge sea lions, whose heads and legs resemble those of the seal, but with bodies more like enormous oxen, covered with long hair of a yellowish-brown colour. They attain an immense size, one having been captured some years since which weighed over two tons. The noise which they make all day long, with their perpetual bark or roar is fearful ; but their constant gambols, both on the rocks and in the water, are very amusing. Their dominion is shared by myriads of pelicans and other sea fowl, but each party, as if by common consent, keeps scrupulously to its own portion of the rock. There is an excellent hotel exactly opposite, on the mainland, on the verandah of which, with a spy-glass in your hand, and a mint julep by your side, a beverage for which the house is justly celebrated, a very pleasant and amusing hour may be spent.

The country round San Francisco is barren and arid in the extreme, consisting of a succession of small sand hills ; but the islands in the bay teem

with luxuriant vegetation, supplying the city and its environs with the finest fruit and vegetables in the world, while the district on the banks of the Sacramento river is one continuous garden.

On the breakfast table in San Francisco, may be seen, all the year round, a profusion of melons, pines, apples, pears, oranges, grapes, &c., the latter costing something less than threepence English per pound, while the apples, which can be had almost for nothing, often weigh upwards of two pounds each.

The streets of the city are broad and clean, a great portion of which, including the footpaths, are laid with wooden planks. The churches, theatres, and other public buildings, are very good, and the shops in the main street might vie with those in our leading thoroughfares in London. The "Montgomery Block," which consists of shops, &c., and is built entirely of white marble, is the largest entire block of buildings in the United States.

It was then, rather reluctantly, that we bid farewell to this wonderful city of only twenty-five years' growth, and with all our belongings,

took up our quarters on board the steamer "Sierra Nevada," which was the first ship to start, of a new line, that had just been formed to run along the Mexican coast, calling at all intermediate ports for cotton, and connecting with the Pacific Mail Co.'s ships at Acapulco, where the freights were to be transferred to the latter, and forwarded to Europe *viâ* the Isthmus of Panama. At twelve o'clock the bell rang for all who were not passengers to leave the ship, and a few minutes more saw us steaming out of the beautiful bay, which forms the harbour of San Francisco—past the "Golden Gate," and leaving the "Golden City" with all its pleasant attractions fast disappearing in the distance. Our fellow-passengers consisted chiefly of second-rate Americans, emigrating to Mexico, and a few Juarist refugees who had lately received a pardon from the Emperor Maximilian, and were returning to the city of Mexico, to take the oath of allegiance. By "Juarist refugees" I mean people who formerly belonged to the Republican, or as it was called, Liberal Government of Mexico, of which Juarez was president, before the arrival

of the Emperor in the country, and who had offered an armed resistance to the Imperial and French troops, and being finally defeated, and dispersed, were compelled to fly the country.

The Emperor Maximilian had been invited to Mexico by the vote of the representatives of the people, which vote was carried by the Conservative or Church party, nicknamed the "Mochos," who had always been at deadly feud with the Liberals. We were accompanied by a friend, who was, like myself, a retired officer of Her Majesty's service—our mutual object in going to Mexico being to offer our services to the Emperor. Among the Mexicans on board was General Cortês and his staff, the former having been lately very much fêted in Washington, where the whole of the American General Grant's Army had been passed in review for his especial edification, and as our destinations were the same, I was anxious to cultivate his acquaintance, but my very limited knowledge at that time of Spanish, and his of English or French, made it rather difficult.

Nothing worthy of notice occurred for the first

few days of our voyage. We kept generally within sight of the coast, the weather being fine, and the heat daily increasing as we went southward. On the fourth day, we entered a little bay, at the end of which was situated a solitary "rancho" or farm-house, occupied by an old Californian, who had lived there, I was told, for twenty-five years, without ever leaving his domain. I believe our only business there was to deliver to him sundry boxes of liquor, and to receive in return a quantity of cotton, and after a couple of hours had been thus occupied we continued our course amidst a chorus of "Vaya Ustedes con Dios"—"Go and God speed you," from his numerous Mexican dependents.

On turning the angle of the bay a sight met our view, the beauty of which quite baffles description. We were in deep water, though close to the shore, which was bounded by high projecting rocks of a whitish grey colour, and of the most grotesque formations, the bases of which were intersected by every variety in form and size of caverns, arches, &c., presenting the appearance of a monster grotto, while from the

extreme placidity of the water one could scarcely imagine, but for the help of the old proverb, "continual dropping weareth away a stone," how such beautiful ravages had been effected. The water was so clear that though of an immense depth the bottom could be plainly discerned, and to add to the novelty of the scene, the surface of it was literally covered with every variety of sea fowl, undaunted by our presence, and sailing about in majestic security, from the large, sleepy looking pelican, with its enormous bill and huge pouch hanging beneath, to the little active diver, which seemed to possess the power of being in half a dozen different spots at the same time. For several hours, as we steamed along at half speed close to the shore, this delightful prospect continued, until we were obliged to alter our course and stand out to sea, to avoid a large promontory discernible in the distance.

Our voyage continued without further incident until we reached Mazatlan, only varied by the increasing heat, and our proximity, or otherwise, to the coast, which assumed gradually a more barren and volcanic appearance. I subse-

quently learnt, the whole country shows, at different points, evident traces of volcanic action, to say nothing of the number of extinct craters constantly met with.

On reaching Mazatlan we found a squadron of French ships of war anchored at the mouth of the harbour, a small bay almost completely land locked, the entrance to which is very narrow, the whole resembling somewhat that of Balaklava. Having anchored, the majority of us prepared to go on shore, in one of the numerous Mexican boats in attendance, as the captain informed us that the ship would remain there till the following day.

The boat landed us at a tolerable jetty, from which, through a dirty suburb, five minutes' walk brought us to the town, and then to the principal hotel, an old fashioned and rather dirty establishment, kept by a French-Californian lady, who had a big, lazy Mexican for her lord and master. Here we breakfasted off mutton chops, which had a strong flavour of goat, a meagre chicken, and the everlasting national Mexican dish "frijoles," or black beans, first boiled,

afterwards fried in lard, and seasoned with garlic and other condiments; after which we sallied forth to see the town. Being at the time in a state of siege it presented rather a dull and forlorn appearance; but the streets were broad and clean, and the houses substantial and handsome for a Mexican town, showing evident traces of their first owners, the Spaniards; indeed, a large number of the principal merchants and shopkeepers of the place belong still to that race. A very short walk brought us to the line of fortifications that had been hastily thrown up for the defence of the place against the Liberal troops, who, to the number of five thousand men, were investing it from the land side.

The defences consisted of a hastily thrown up parapet of earthwork of considerable height, with a deep ditch at the outer base on the north, east, and south sides, in front of which were placed at intervals very formidable looking abattis, constructed of prickly pear trees and other species of cactus; while one or two batteries of heavy guns were posted in commanding positions, including three large-sized cannonades, which swept the

main road into the interior, and a bridge, over which it passed, about five hundred yards from the city gates. An outlying picquet was posted in a cotton field beyond the lines, whence a good view of the surrounding country could be obtained, the sentinels from this outpost connecting with those on the ramparts.

The garrison consisted of a battalion of Turcos, which are troops raised by the French in the African settlements, the men being principally quite black. They are fine, swarthy looking fellows, and in their Zouave dress present a very martial appearance; they are, however, usually a pack of incarnate devils, and are celebrated for their acts of lawless plunder and rapine in times of war; they fight like tigers, though their discipline is very lax, as they utterly refuse to obey anyone but their own regimental officers, and, if checked too much, are sometimes insubordinate even to them. They were a source of constant terror to the Mexicans, who would at any time have preferred fighting double their number of white men. Stationed here were also a regiment of Mexican infantry and a few hastily raised

levies of native cavalry, called the "Guardia Rural," a kind of Yeomanry, than whom a more wretched looking squad I never beheld. I do not think there was a horse among them worth twenty-five dollars; they appeared to greater disadvantage than they otherwise would have, by contrast with the two well-mounted and equipped troops of Chasseurs d'Afrique, who were parading at the same time.

In the evening we were much struck with the pretty effect produced by the ladies of the place, who, dressed in gay coloured muslins, with their "rebosos" thrown gracefully over their heads and shoulders, were sitting in the verandahs or on the house-tops, smoking cigarettos, chatting, and enjoying the evening breeze.

The reboso, the national head dress of the women of Mexico, is a long scarf of linen, generally a mixture of black and white, and is an indispensable article of dress to all ranks and ages. The little damsel of three years old would not think of putting her head out of doors without rapidly and gracefully donning her reboso, which is accomplished by throwing it on the back

of the head, hanging over the shoulders, one end being allowed to hang down in front, and the other thrown back over the left shoulder; at the approach of a stranger, by an almost imperceptable movement, it is drawn more closely, obscuring the lower portion of the face, leaving only the brilliant dark eyes visible.

The evening occupation of the ladies, "smoking," may perhaps astonish some of my English readers; but that habit is as common with the ladies in Mexico as with the men, from the highly-born matron or fashionable young belle in her teens to the old hag in the streets, or the little beggar girl sitting on the doorstep. A small bag of finely cut tobacco, together with a little book of cigarette paper, is usually carried in the pocket, which they very skilfully roll up between their fingers into cigarettes, which, after lighting, they hold gracefully between the forefinger and thumb, taking occasional whiffs until consumed.

On the conclusion of a meal, even before the cloth is removed, there will probably be no one at the table who is not thus occupied. Mexicans do not, however, indulge in the practice so common

among the gentlemen of their neighbours the Yankees, I mean, expectoration, which filthy habit is quite unknown with them. Should a gentleman find himself kissing the pretty little hand of a Mexican beauty he would find that the tips of the forefinger and thumb were as brown as berries, caused by perpetual contact with tobacco juice, which oozes through the paper of the cigarettes.

A night, spent principally in doing battle with the mosquitoes, was succeeded by a splendid morning, which, after an early cup of chocolate, the usual matutinal beverage of the Mexicans, I devoted to another walk round the lines, and was rewarded by witnessing the arrival of a battalion of Zouaves which had been daily expected from the interior, and had marched unmolested through a tract of country held by five thousand of the enemy, who, though they made their presence known by a hundred petty annoyances, such as keeping provisions out of the town, and firing from the bush at sentinels, still seldom showed themselves, and the garrison, before the

arrival of the Zouaves, had been too weak to sally forth in quest of them.

On this very morning a couple of peasants who had endeavoured to enter the town with five donkeys, laden with charcoal, were discovered by a French sentry at daybreak hung, in company with their donkeys, exactly in front of his post, no doubt the work of some scouting party of the enemy who had intercepted them.

At twelve o'clock we bid adieu to the town of Mazatlan, and returned on board, our party being increased by one or two fresh passengers, among whom was an old American gentleman, escorting a young lady, the niece of the British Consul at Tepic, to which place they were proceeding, and we subsequently travelled there together, an arrangement that (to us at least) proved very agreeable.

Our captain was a very amusing companion, and would spin many a long yarn over our evening cigars; but his great hobby was the war then going on with, what he termed, the rebel states. He was a staunch Union man, and I have seldom

met with one who equalled him in bitter hatred towards the South. I will not attempt to weary my readers, as he did me sometimes, with the hundred and one arguments which he employed to convince me that hanging was much too good for any Confederate, from Jeff. Davis down to the smallest drummer boy.

Whatever I might offer in their favour, was always silenced by his final, and as he considered it, clenching argument, "We're bound to whip 'em, sir; this is an almighty nation, and God knows it, and takes care of his own. If they bring a hundred thousand men, we'll bring five, and if England tries to interfere, we can throw a column of men into Canada that would create a famine in a week. We're bound to whip 'em, sir! Yes, Siree!"

Two more days brought us to San Blas, which was to be our port of disembarkation, and about six o'clock on the morning of the 12th of January, the anchor was dropped in the roads of that most wretched of all the ports of Mexico. French men-of-war were at anchor here likewise. It is a place of little or no importance, though the nearest

point on the Pacific to the principal cities in the interior, except Acapulco, which was then unapproachable by land, being, like Mazatlan, in a state of siege by the Liberals.

It now appeared that the really serious part of our journey was about to commence, and I was not without considerable anxiety at the prospect of taking my wife through upwards of nine hundred miles of a country overrun by contending factions, and their lawless troops, and the highways of which were infested with innumerable bands of guerillas.

All was now hurry and confusion, shore boats had already arrived, and as the steamer was only going to remain a few hours, the passengers, most of whom were going to leave the ship here, were all hastening to collect their effects and get on shore. Our friend very kindly volunteered to precede us, in the first boat, *and take rooms at the hotel*, alas! for our unsophisticated ignorance; and after a great deal of trouble with a drunken purser's clerk, who wanted to make me pay twice over for our baggage, and who received a severe reprimand from the captain, who arrived on board

most opportunely, after landing the mails, and from whom we had always received the greatest kindness and attention, at about nine o'clock we entered one of the numerous boats in waiting, and started for the scenes of our future adventures.

The impressions produced by a further introduction to the land of Montezuma I will reserve for another chapter.

CHAPTER II.

For the guidance of my readers who have not followed the late Mexican war in all its details, and are not perhaps distinctly aware of the causes which first brought it about, it may not be amiss for me to give a short epitome, both of its origin, of the expedition from the commencement, the founding of the Empire, and of the military situation of the country, at the time of which I am speaking. These facts I have collected with great care, from the best authenticated accounts written at the time.

The first diplomatic trace of the thought of intervention in Mexico, originated in Spain. France and England had long been endeavouring to obtain redress, for wrongs inflicted by the Mexican authorities on several of their subjects, as well as the adjustment of certain pecuniary

claims, but hitherto all negotiations had been unsuccessful.

Spain, however, had not yet lost the hope of re-entering into possession of her American colonies, and trusted by means of European intervention, to re-establish a throne in Mexico, and cause it to be occupied by a Prince of the house of Bourbon.

On the 24th of November, 1858, Mr. Mon, then Spanish Ambassador to France, represented to Count Walewsky, "the necessity of establishing a strong power and government in these countries."

On the 3rd of January, 1859, Mr. Mon wrote to Mr. Calderon Collantes, minister of foreign affairs in Spain—"My idea, which I have not been so fortunate as to enable your Excellency to understand, reduced itself to examining whether it would be possible to form a government in Mexico which, supported at the outset by the three powers, would end by having no need of any. Will your Excellency indicate to me, if possible, the form, as well as the means, which appear to you suitable to be made use of

under such circumstances? Count Walewski and myself have left the question at this point, in order to be able to resume it when we think fit."

Seven days later Mr. Calderon Collantes replied that he shared Mr. Mon's views, but that according to him "Moral and purely diplomatic means were sufficient." On the 18th of April, 1860, Mr. Calderon Collantes wrote to Mr. Mon as follows:—

"Your Excellency is aware of the attempt made several times by Her Majesty's Government with regard to those of England and France, with a view to adopting a measure to put an end to the anarchy which exists in the Mexican Republic.

"Some time ago I had with M. Barrot (French ambassador to this Court) a conference upon this serious affair. M. Barrot transmitted my indications to the Emperor's minister of foreign affairs, and a few days ago he read me an extract from one of his dispatches, in which it is shown that the Governments of France and England are now disposed to combine their efforts in order to obtain the establishment of a

government in Mexico which will be recognised by the entire nation, and will put an end to the sad situation in which this unhappy Republic has found itself for so many years past. M. Thouvenal thinks that the best means would be to propose the convocation of a constituent assembly, which should determine the form of government in a stable and definite manner, and solve all the pending questions, whatever their nature and importance. Her Majesty's will is then, that your Excellency should have an interview with M. Thouvenal, with a view to seeking the means for the three respective powers of intervening in the disorder of the Mexican Republic. The Government of Her Majesty thinks that the mere news of this resolution and the first measures taken to bring it to a good end will suffice to give courage to honourable persons in Mexico, and predispose minds to labour in favour of the establishment of a government, which, without limiting the exercise of legitimate rights or the guarantee which they have in civilized countries, will for ever enchain

that spirit of rebellion which has caused so much damage in this unfortunate country."

Thanks to the favourable reception given to the Spanish propositions by France and England, Mr. Calderon Collantes thought fit to risk a project of constitution for the re-organization of Mexico, which he sent to Paris and London on the 24th of May, 1860. This was going to work too fast, and England stopped him forthwith, having no intention of being used as a cat's-paw by the Catholic powers.

Mr. Isturitz, minister from Spain to London, wrote on the 27th of April, 1860, to Mr. Calderon Collantes—

"In effect, on the 27th of April, 1860, Lord John Russell, warned as to the co-operation that England might give, replied, laconically, to me that he did not repel it, provided that it was thoroughly understood that the use of force should not enter into the execution of these projects. In a second interview I insisted, in order to obtain a more explicit answer from Lord John Russell, the Secretary of State explained, that

on its part England will exact the protection of the Protestant faith, to which I replied that in that case England must not rely upon the co-operation of Spain."

M. Barrot, minister from France to Spain, was at the same time charged to transmit to Mr. Calderon Collantes, in the name of his Government, the following :—

"It is, besides, understood," said the dispatch, "that the measures in question shall have an entirely friendly character, and that they shall exclude the idea of recourse to any means of material coercion."

Thus ended the first period of the Mexican question. It was to be set aside till the 1st of September, 1861.

Spain, meanwhile, in nowise discouraged by the refusal of England and France to aid her enterprise, had pursued its execution alone, through the intervention of the Captain General of the Island of Cuba. A year later, when she was ready to act, she again put the Mexican question upon the diplomatic carpet. Mr. Mon, alluding to the approaching secession of the

Southern States of America, wrote to Mr. Calderon Collantes :—

"The Government cannot conceal that this may be an occasion for reviving past *souvenirs*, and placing upon the throne of Mexico a prince of the Bourbon blood, more or less intimately united to this house."

This was the last word of Spanish political thought, and which was destined to remove all scruples from Louis Napoleon's mind, and to bring about the retreat of Spain at the outset of hostilities.

On the 6th of September, 1861, Mr. Mon received orders to announce to M. Thouvenal, that a Spanish fleet was ready to set sail, to operate against Mexico, and the Captain General of the Island of Cuba received orders to that effect. It would have been difficult, it must be confessed, to have acted with more resolution and skill, and if her strength had been equal to her will, Spain, without doubt, would have brought her plan to a good issue. Napoleon, it may be, terrified at the thought of any Bourbon restoration whatever, even at three thousand

leagues from France, no longer hesitated. He intervened at once, and persuaded England to do the same. A month later, on the 11th of October, 1861, M. Thouvenal wrote to M. de Flahault in London:—

"I have replied to the English Ambassador, that I was entirely in harmony with his Government as to one point, that I admit, like Lord Russell, that the legitimacy of our coercive action with regard to Mexico would only result from our griefs against the Government of that country, and that those griefs, as well as the means of redressing them, and preventing their renewal, could alone, in effect, be the object of an ostensible convention. But it appeared to me useless to go beyond, and interfere in advance with the ultimate exercise of a legitimate participation in the events of which our operations might be the origin.

"It is permissible to suppose, in effect, that if the issue of the American crisis consecrated the separation of the North and South, the two new confederations would both seek for such compensation as the territory of Mexico, given

up to social dissolution, would offer to their competition. Such an event could not be indifferent to England, and the principal obstacle which might, according to us, prevent its accomplishment, would be the constituting a reparative Government in Mexico strong enough to check its internal dissolution."

On the 27th of July, 1861, M. de Saligny, the French Minister at Mexico, officially announced to his Government that, in accordance with Mr. Charles Wyke, the English Minister to the same power, he had broken off diplomatic relations with the Government of Juarez. M. Thouvenal approved of his conduct, and on the 5th of September (the evening of the day on which Mr. Mon had officially notified him of the sending of a Spanish fleet to operate against Mexico), the French minister thus summed up M. de Saligny's instructions :—

"The Emperor's Government entirely approves of your conduct, and protests in the most formal manner against that of the Government of Juarez.

"It is important that the latter Government

should not ignore the impression of the Emperor's Government, and that it should be edified as to what we should exact from it. You are, then, to declare, that the suspension of the payment of foreign conventions, let it be covered with whatever pretext it may, is, on our part, the object of the most lively disapprobation; and that we demand the immediate repeal of the law of the 17th of July last. You will add, that we claim the establishment of Commissaries in the ports of Vera Cruz and Tampico, whom we shall point out, and whose mission will be to secure the payment to the powers who have a right to it, of the funds which are to be raised to their profit, in execution of foreign conventions, upon the product of the Maritime Custom Houses of Mexico. If the Mexican Government refuses to accept these conditions, you are called upon, sir, to quit Mexico without delay, with all the persons who compose His Majesty's Legation."

This was tantamount to a declaration of war, and the intervention was accordingly resolved upon. On the 30th of October, 1861, M. Thou-

venal announced it in these terms to M. Dubois de Saligny:—

"The Emperor has decided that a naval division be placed under the command of Rear Admiral Jurien de la Graviere, who shall receive the mission to repair to the Gulf of Mexico, to obtain the satisfaction which, after a final examination of the situation, appears to be exacted by regard for our dignity, and for the violence, of all kinds, to which our nation is subjected. The Emperor's Government will not act alone. The Government of Her British Majesty and that of Her Catholic Majesty, propose to unite their forces to those with which we intend to make this expedition."

This is the first time that, in a dispatch, M. Thouvenal revealed the existence of a convention between France, Spain, and England, which was to be signed on the morrow, the terms of which Mr. Calderon Collantes discussed with Mr. Mon in a dispatch dated the 23rd, and which had been the object of diplomatic correspondence for nearly two years.

On the 21st of October, 1861, the convention

was signed between France, England, and Spain, which ran thus:—

"Art. 1.—The commander of the allied forces shall be authorised to accomplish, upon the most suitable spots, all other operations which shall be judged proper for the realization of the aim proposed in the preamble of the present conventions, and especially to guarantee the security of foreign residents.

"Art. 2.—The high parties contracting agree not to seek for themselves, in the use of the coercive measures foreseen by the present convention, any acquisition of territory, nor any particular advantage, and to exercise in the internal affairs of Mexico no influence of a nature to injure the right of the Mexican nation to freely choose and constitute the form of its government."

Meanwhile Calderon Collantes addressed instructions to the Captain General of the Island of Cuba. They are summed up in three points:—

First.—Personal satisfaction for the dismissal of the Spanish Minister.

Second.—The execution of the treaty signed at Paris between Mon and Almonti.

Third.—The indemnification stipulated.

M. Thouvenal had also sent his dispatches to Admiral Jurien de la Graviere, on the 11th of November, 1861:—

"When the combined forces of the three powers shall have arrived upon the eastern shore of Mexico, you will, as I have said, claim the delivery into your hands of the ports of that shore. After taking this step two alternatives may present themselves: either your summons will be resisted, and then your remaining course will be, to concert, without delay, with the commanders of the allied forces, for the capture of those ports by force; or the local authorities will renounce opposing a material resistance, but the Mexican Government will refuse to enter into relations with you.

"Resuming a tactic employed by one of his predecessors in the war with the United States, Juarez will, if necessary, retire into the interior of the country. The Allied Powers could not

suffer themselves to be held in check by such an expedient. The interest of our dignity, and a consideration for the circumstances of the climate on the eastern shore, unite to exact a prompt result. The Emperor's Government admit that, either to reach the Mexican Government, or to render more efficacious the coercion exercised upon it by the taking possession of its ports, you will find yourself in the necessity of combining a march into the interior of the country, which would, if necessary, lead the allied forces to Mexico itself.

"The Allied Powers only profess, I have told you, the aim indicated in the convention; they interdict themselves from intervening in the internal affairs of the country, and especially from exercising any pressure upon the will of the people in the choice of their government. There are, however, certain circumstances which our foresight is called upon to provide for, and which we have been called upon to examine. It might happen that the presence of the allied forces upon the territory of Mexico would determine the healthy part of the population, tired of

anarchy, eager for order and repose, to make an effort to constitute a government in the country, offering the guarantees of strength and stability, which have failed to exist in all those which have succeeded each other since the emancipation. The Allied Powers have a common interest—a manifest interest in seeing Mexico emerge from the state of social dissolution in which it is plunged, which paralyses all development of its prosperity, annuls for it and the rest of the world all the riches with which Providence has endowed its privileged soil, and obliges the Allied Powers to have periodical recourse to costly expeditions to recall the duties of ephemeral and unreasonable governments. This interest should lead them not to discourage attempts of the nature of that which I have just indicated to you, and you should not refuse them encouragement and moral support, if, through the position of men who would take the initiative, and through the sympathy that they would meet with from the mass of the population, you saw a chance of success for establishing an order of things of a nature to secure the interests of the foreign resi-

dents; that protection to and those guarantees which have failed them until now. The Emperor's Government relies upon your prudence and discernment to judge in concert with His Majesty's Commissary, whose knowledge, acquired in his sojourn in Mexico, will be precious to you during the events which may develop themselves under your eyes, and aid you to determine the measure in which you may be called upon to take part in them."

It is evident that at this time the idea of the Archduke Maximilian occupying the throne of Mexico was entertained, though the French disclaimed the intention of forcing any government upon the country, but professed to desire to aid by their moral support whatever form of government the majority of the people should select, and which promised the fulfilment of the objects of the intervention. This will be seen from the following:—Rumours had reached the ears of Lord Cowley, the British Ambassador at Paris, that the officers of the expedition about to start for Mexico stated publicly, in the cafés, that they were going to raise a throne for the Arch-

duke Maximilian, in Mexico, and on the 24th of January, 1862, he wrote to Lord John Russell on the subject as follows :—

"I have heard it said, in so many directions, that the officers who are going to Mexico with reinforcements declare that they are going there with the aim of placing Archduke Maximilian upon the throne, that I have thought it necessary to question M. Thouvenal on the subject. I have asked him whether negociations were pending between France and Austria with regard to the Archduke Maximilian. His Excellency replied in the negative, and said that the negociations had been opened by the Mexicans alone, who had come to Vienna with this aim."

A quotation from a speech of M. Brillant, then "Minister de la Parole," in the name of the Government, in reply to M. Jules Favre of the Opposition, seems, as far as words go, to indicate the intention of the French Cabinet.

"The principle which we proclaim,—the principle which is the basis of our public right, the independence of the people's vote, and of national sovereignty, is one that we shall not go

to Mexico to violate, but we will leave those unfortunate populations perfectly free, pressed upon as they are, by the Governments which you praise, and which have never been able to give them any of those benefits, any of the securities, which form the rights of civilized society. If they wish to continue this miserable existence, we do not impose a better lot upon them; but if they wish a better lot for themselves, Oh! then we shall encourage them with all our sympathy, counsel, and moral support.

"Such, Gentlemen, is the situation very clearly set forth, and, as for the rumours which the honourable speaker opposite said, 'gave umbrage to Her British Majesty,' permit me to pass them by—officers about departing have said that they were going to Mexico to place a foreign prince upon the throne.

"What? do you imagine that this great secret of diplomacy, if it have existed, could have been thus given up to the first officer that came in the way, as he was setting out for America?

"This cannot be serious."

CHAPTER III.

It was on the 5th of January, 1862, that the first vessels of the united fleets of France, England, and Spain appeared upon the Mexican Coast.

Spain had taken the first step. Its impatience could not wait, and, in its desire to hurry events forward, it had not shrunk from wounding the susceptibility of its allies by taking precedence; but excuses and explanations through diplomatic agency at length calmed the two parties offended.

The Spanish landing corps numbered 7,000 men, under the command of General Prim; that of France 2,500 men, under Admiral Jurien de la Graviere. England had only furnished 700 men.

The Fort of San Juan de Ulloa was evacuated without being defended, and with it the city of Vera Cruz fell into the hands of the allies.

Here a series of negociations commenced be-

tween the plenipotentiaries and the Government of Juarez, which ended in the convention of "Soledad," signed on the 19th of February, 1862.

This convention, signed in the name of France, by M. Dubois de Saligny and Admiral Jurien de la Graviere, was as follows:—

"Art. 1.—The Constitutional Government, which is now in power in the Mexican Republic, having informed the Commissaries of the allied powers that it does not need the assistance offered with so much benevolence by them to the Mexican people, because the nation contains within itself sufficient elements of strength to preserve itself from all internal revolt, the allies will have recourse to treaties to present all the reclamations that they are charged to make in the names of their respective nations.

"Art. 2.—With this view, the representatives of the allied powers, protesting that they have no intention of injuring the sovereignty and integrity of the Mexican Republic, negociations will be opened at Orizava.

"Art. 3.—It is stipulated that the allied

forces shall have the right to occupy the cities of Cordova, Orizava, and Tehuacan, in order to be free from the deleterious influences of Vera Cruz and its environs."

Differences, however, of a serious nature soon took place between the representatives of the allied powers, and the fixed determination of the French to go to the capital completed the breaking off of the convention of the 31st of October. This rupture took place on the 9th of April. In that day's session, M. de Saligny, the French envoy, insisted that they should march on Mexico; while those of Spain and England objected "that no act was of a nature to justify this resolution."

This drew upon General Prim, from M. de Saligny, the accusation of having wished to work for his own profit, and of coveting the Mexican crown.

At the conclusion of this session England and Spain resolved to treat separately with Juarez, which they did at Puebla, and, their demands being satisfied, they soon afterwards withdrew their forces from the country.

On the 1st of May General Laurencez, with

three thousand French troops, directed himself towards Puebla, and on the 5th arrived at the Monastery of Guadaloupe, where, instead of finding open gates and a hearty welcome, as he had been led to expect by the representations of M. de Saligny, he was received with a shower of grape and a most stubborn resistance, which with his small force he failed to overcome. This check could not remain unavenged, so General Forey was sent with reinforcements to replace Laurencez, who was beaten, deceived, and removed from his command. The former embarked at Cherbourg on the 30th of July. The effective of the troops under his command amounted to twenty thousand men, and on the 15th of February, 1863, after having divided his army into three columns, he directed himself towards Puebla, which he attacked on the 18th of March, and captured on the 18th of May. On the 10th of June, he made his entrance into Mexico.

Soon after this a "Junta," or council of notables, took place in the city of Mexico, promoted to a great extent by General Almonte, who with Generals Miramon and Marquez constituted the

chiefs of the Conservative, or Church party. Juarez, the President of the Republic, who had been brought into power by the Liberals, had, on hearing of the advance of the French troops from Orizava, fled to the North, and his Cabinet was, of course, broken up; thence, until the occupation of the capital by the French, there had been no existing government. General Almonte had for some time past been in negociation with the Cabinet of the Tuilleries on the subject of intervention, and had made propositions relative to the founding of a monarchy in his native country to more than one European prince.

The "Junta," after long deliberation, decided that the Archduke Maximilian of Austria, if supported by the French Government, would be a fitting prince to secure the happiness of the country, and resolved to send to Miramar a deputation, charged with offering him the crown definitely and officially.

No doubt the presence of the French Commander-in-Chief conduced in no small degree to secure this decision. As, however, Maximilian would only accept a crown with the people's

sanction, a vote of the latter took place, and on the 10th of April, 1864, in consequence of the favourable result of this movement, the Mexican Imperial throne was raised in favour of the Archduke Maximilian, who four days afterwards left Miramar for Vera Cruz.

The taking of the capital had put the French army in possession of the central zone of Mexico, whose great axis extends from it to Vera Cruz, passing by Puebla. All roads radiating from the centre to the circumference start in the northern region from the capital, and in the southern region from Vera Cruz. Juarez and his generals occupied the heads of these roads, and it was in order to disperse them that five columns immediately set themselves in motion. Vera Cruz, Puebla, and Mexico were chosen as bases of operation. The first of these places was left to the Imperial Mexicans and Turcos, the second was confided to Colonel Jeanningros, and the third to General Nieger. The most important columns directed themselves towards the north, one to the east, under General Duay's command, and the other to the west, under that of General

(afterwards Marshal) Bazaine. The first of these generals made himself master of Queretaro, and the second of Morelia, then both effected a junction at Guanajuato, whence, reinforced by the Mexican troops of Miramon, they continued their march towards San Luis Potosi and Durango. It is unnecessary to follow these columns in all the details of a skirmishing war, against an enemy whose troops were without organization, discipline, or energy, who always fled instead of fighting, and who could not resist successfully when having the advantage of ten against one. There were exceptions, but they were few, and the French General-in-Chief was not long in announcing that five provinces enjoyed perfect tranquillity.

Such was the situation on the 12th of June, when the new Emperor made his entry into the capital. Nevertheless, in spite of tranquillity having been loudly proclaimed the French easily repeating their victories. At Guanajuato on the 27th of June, at Titacuaro on the 2nd of July, they beat the Liberal troops.

On the 5th of July, Commander Marshall em-

barked at Vera Cruz, at the head of 600 men, and landed at Alvarado on the morrow, for the purpose of attacking General Garcia, who had established himself in an intrenched camp in the gorge of Cornejo, and was protected by four little forts. On the same evening the camp, forts, baggage, munitions, &c., were all in Commander Marshall's power, and two days later he took the city of Tlacotalpan. On the 1st of August, Colonel Tourre forced the passage of Cantabria, and occupied Huajutla. On the 10th of August the Liberal General Porrio Diaz assumed the offensive in his turn, and attacked Colonel Giraud, but he was powerless against the French organization, and retired, losing four cannon and seven hundred men. On the 9th of August, Colonel Clinchant had beaten General Nêri, near Tulot, and made General Echeverria prisoner.

Meanwhile, Uraga had deserted the Liberal cause to submit himself to the Emperor, and Vidaurri had followed his example.

On the night of the 24th of August Cortinas arrived at Matamoras, and Mejia at the head of

four thousand men, after having made his junction with Colonel Dupin's contra-guerilla force, advanced to drive him thence. General Castaguay, at the same time, marched upon Monterey, the capital of Nuevo Leon, at the head of a very strong column. He arrived there on the 26th of August, and took possession of the city without a contest, finding fifty pieces of artillery there.

In spite of these repeated victories and various successes,—in spite of the salutary terror inspired by the contra-guerillas, we read in the Mexican papers that a stage-coach was stopped at a league and a half from Mexico the day before, and that a day before that it was stopped at two leagues distance. The French engineers employed upon the Vera Cruz Railroad, at the same time wrote—

"It is sad not to be able to go forty paces from the works without an escort, or running the risk of being robbed or captured."

On his part the Emperor treated with the Transatlantic Company for the transportation of seven thousand Austrians, and several thousand Belgians for the immediate protection of his person.

It would be beyond the purpose of this narrative, in resuming the recital of military events, to do more than briefly indicate the results attained. General Castaguay, having seized Monterey, his operations were now mainly directed against Juarez, who had concentrated in the state of Durango, the troops of Negrete, Ortega, and Doblado. Success still rested with the French, the Mexicans being frequently badly routed by greatly inferior forces. Juarez fled with only a few cavalry men, Patoni was isolated from supports, and Ortega could not even retain his staff. Meanwhile, Mejia entered Matamoras without the garrison striking a blow. Cortinas submitted himself to the Empire, and publicly fraternized with Mejia. Canales alone refused to submit. He crossed the Rio Grande with four hundred men, and was immediately disarmed by Colonel Ford, on the part of the United States Government. Zuloga, the former President of the Mexican Republic; General Gorza, the former Governor of Tamaulipas; General Batarde, once the Emperor Iturbide's aide-de-camp, Vidaurri, the former Governor of

Nuevo Leon ; and Quiroga, his lieutenant, came to submit themselves to the Emperor, upon whom all seemed to smile, and who, meanwhile, was journeying on a tour of inspection, amidst the acclamations of the population.

The Liberals still held certain small tracts of country, chiefly near the Pacific coast, all the seaports of which, however, were in possession of the Imperial troops ; in other parts of the country, the Liberal strongholds consisted, almost entirely, of forests and mountains. Such was the situation of the country at the time I first entered it.

CHAPTER IV.

On nearing the shore, nothing was perceptible but a long, low line of sand, on which were dotted a number of black figures, evidently awaiting our arrival. No houses or even trees were visible, and we might have been approaching the great desert, to all appearance. Scarcely had the boat touched the beach, when about fifty of the black figures referred to swooped down upon us, each possessing himself of some portion of our luggage, and scampering off with it up the beach, with me in full pursuit. We were met in a few minutes by our friend G——, in company with a German merchant of the place, to whom we had letters of introduction, and who informed me that the abductors of our effects *were custom-house officers* and their assistants, and that they were only taking them for examination. Before my wife had hardly set her foot on shore, she narrowly escaped

stepping upon a small snake, of very beautiful appearance, which was instantly killed by one of the boatmen, with the comforting assurance that they were very plentiful, and that their sting was certain death; no doubt it is very venomous, but the *certain death* was probably a little exaggeration on our friend's part, in hopes of obtaining a large reward for so opportunely slaying it.

On reaching the *town*, we found nothing but a collection of miserable Indian huts, the only buildings worthy the name of houses being a low stone structure, called the "Aduana," or custom-house, and the residences of two small foreign merchants, one of whom was our friend.

There was a kind of "meson," or inn, to which we repaired, but it consisted only of a small yard well sheltered with large trees, in which was a long, thatched hut, containing about six rooms, which were devoted to sleeping apartments; the "comedor," or dining-room, being a kind of *al fresco* arrangement, formed by a verandah, roofed in with "petates," or Indian mats, under which were placed a number of small tables and benches, for the accommodation of guests.

By dint of great favour, bribery and corruption, we obtained the last room, not actually occupied, which the *house* boasted of, it having already, I believe, been promised to three different parties, but possession in Mexico is everything in cases of disputed ownership. A miserable hole it was; no window, or other means of obtaining light or air, but by the opening doorway, which led into a similar apartment, occupied by a Mexican mixed family of seven, but which enjoyed the luxury of a second door leading into the yard.

Having breakfasted on chicken and frijoles, accompanied by a bottle of what the landlord assured us was "vino de Bordaos legitimo," I left my wife to take a little rest on the wretched Mexican bed, which, with a single chair, was the only furniture in the room, and sallied forth with G—— to see what means of conveyance the place afforded by which we could proceed to Tepic, which was fifty miles distant, and situated, we were informed, on a high plateau, some eighteen hundred feet above the sea, and a very healthy and agreeable city.

Our anxiety was considerably increased to make a start, on learning that about sunset a small red fly or gnat always made its appearance, whose bite was very much more severe than that of any mosquito, and which generally succeeded in effectually blinding new comers for the first few days.

At the office of the diligence we found that all the seats were engaged for the next three days, and that the place afforded no private conveyances. At last, after a couple of hours' searching, we managed to hire the horse of the Sub-Prefecto's lady for my wife, and a miserable animal, not much larger than a good-sized donkey, for myself, to take us to Tepic for the sum of twenty dollars (£4 English), a servant, mounted on a mule, accompanying us to bring the animals back. As it was quite impossible to obtain a mount for G——, we arranged to await him there until he could get a seat in the diligence.

On returning to the "Mesón," we found that the young lady before mentioned as the niece of the Consul at Tepic, and her old escort, were going also to start at eight p.m., on horseback,

having a carriage to accompany them, in case of their becoming fatigued, and we gladly availed ourselves of their kind offer to become fellow travellers.

Accordingly, after a dinner, which was very like a second edition of the breakfast, we all mounted our respective steeds, and started. It was a beautiful moonlight night, notwithstanding which, two mounted servants belonging to our companions preceded us with torches. Then we all followed, with three or four more servants leading a couple of spare horses; the carriage, drawn by eight mules, and more torchmen, bringing up the rear.

Our road lay through a low, flat country, densely wooded, and covered with profuse rank vegetation; and the scene, when we came to a temporary halt after a brisk trot of a few miles, was truly picturesque. It was at the foot of a small hill, where flowed a beautiful stream, overshadowed by immense trees. The wild look of the surrounding forest, lighted up by innumerable fire flies, the picturesque dress of what appeared to our uninitiated eyes the large retinue of armed

servants, and the high mettled black mules, just appearing with the carriage, surrounded by mounted flambeau-men, all tended to heighten the effect.

I should here mention that mules in Mexico do not at all answer to our English idea of those animals, namely, "as stupid as a mule." Great attention is paid to breeding them, and they are not only very large and handsome, but full of spirit, very fleet, and usually good-tempered and docile, and will at any time do the work of two horses. In most parts of the country they command very high prices.

We pushed steadily on till about midnight, when, after mounting a steep hill, we found ourselves in a small village, chiefly important as being the halting place of "arrieros," or drivers of baggage animals. In Mexico, railways being only in their infancy, and the roads in many parts too bad for waggons, the greater portion of the transport of goods is performed by pack mules, two or three hundred of which, laden with freight, are driven on their journeys of sometimes one or two hundred leagues by three or four men

on horseback, called "arrieros," who are responsible for the goods, and who seldom lose a package of them, though they load and unload them night and morning. As we passed through the village, it was full of these gentry, many of whom were already rising and preparing for the road.

The whole of the inhabitants seemed to sleep in public; in front of each house could be seen five or six figures wrapped up in white sheets, and looking more like corpses than human beings, the only bed used being a "petate."

Here we halted for a little refreshment, our kind friends producing a most appetizing hamper, containing sandwiches, pâte de foie gras, cake, &c.; nor was the immortal Widow "Cliquot" forgotten, and with the addition of an excellent cup of coffee, of Tepic growth, prepared by the servants on a fire left by some of the "arrieros," we concluded a repast such as had probably never before been partaken of on that spot. As the horses had not yet finished their feed, my wife and Miss —— lay down in the bed of an empty cart, to endeavour to catch a few minutes' sleep, which was brought to a very abrupt ter-

mination by a stray donkey, who, after making a minute examination of what he evidently considered two strange intruders, laid his head close between their faces, and set up a loud bray.

We now resumed the road, which from this point was a continuous ascent, and as day began to dawn, perceived that the thick luxuriance of tropical vegetation was giving place to a more open and cultivated district. Fields of coffee and tobacco appeared on each side of the road, while orange and lemon trees filled the hedges and cottage gardens.

I may here mention that the flat tract of dense vegetation through which we had passed during the first part of our journey, is, in the rainy season, completely flooded, the diligence passengers having to be conveyed in boats, which are met by the diligence at a point near to the village in which we took supper.

The horses of myself and wife being now unable to keep pace with the very superior animals of our friends, which were their own property, we thought it advisable to take to the carriage, or "caratella" as that species of con-

veyance is termed in Mexico, being a description of light spring American waggon, covered with poles and curtains, and fitted with comfortable seats and cushions. The last few miles of the road were all down hill, but the latter were so rough that I think it would very much have astonished an English coachman to have seen our Jehu driving his eight mules down it at full gallop, bumping and jumping over stones three times the size of his head, and making nothing of ruts of from one to two feet deep. I thought every moment that over we must go, and tried to impress my fears on the driver, but he only laughed at me, telling me not to have any fear, at the same time urging his animals to still greater speed. Subsequent travelling in diligences over Mexican roads has made one accustomed to this sort of thing, but to people fresh from a civilised country it was a little appalling. We were very thankful when, on reaching the brow of a hill, our coachman pointed out to us the city of Tepic, situated in a large valley of surpassing beauty, everything around it looking as fresh and as green as if in the "Emerald

Isle" itself, and with a beautiful little river flowing through the midst of it.

Twenty minutes' more jolting brought us to the "Gárita," or gate of the town, and after a very superficial inspection by the officer of the guard, we were permitted to pass, and five minutes later arrived, presenting a most dirty and jaded appearance, at the "Casa de las Diligéncias," or Diligence Hotel, a large, rambling, comfortless looking building, though a decided improvement on the "Clarendon" of San Blas. We were received by a stately, though dirty-looking Mexican señora, the landlady, who, if her size was any criterion, was certainly a good specimen of the nutritious qualities of "frijoles" and the healthy climate of Tepic. It was now eight o'clock, and after a tolerable breakfast of excellent chocolate, chickens, eggs, and fruit, we were glad to be conducted to our rooms, and seeking the welcome shelter of the mosquito curtains, were soon in a delicious sleep.

On rising in the afternoon, it appeared that our rooms opened into a broad verandah, which extended the whole length of the house, and

formed an excellent promenade, overlooking the "Plaza," or principal square of the city, a large enclosure, surrounded on all sides by houses, and laid out with orange, tamarind, and other trees; most Mexican towns have their "Plaza de las armas" arranged in this style, and here the band plays in the evenings, to which the beauty and fashion listen while taking their promenade and smoking their cigarettos. The market is also held here once a week, to which the Indian population bring their produce of fruit, vegetables, poultry, &c.

After dining at the "table d'hôte," which was a very humble imitation of the French style, patronised chiefly by French and Mexican officers belonging to the garrison, together with a few foreign merchants, we strolled out, and joined the pleasure-seeking crowd below. The novelty of the scene which here met our view, was very striking.

The Plaza was brilliantly lighted with oil lamps, gas being an amount of civilization not yet arrived at, and a very good military band was playing selections from the popular operas

of the day. The whole square was thronged with pleasure seekers of every grade in life, and in every imaginable dress. There were French, German, and even English ladies, displaying very fair specimens of the latest Paris fashions, side by side with señoras and señoritas, who, in addition to the pride they inherited with their old Castilian blood, were proud also of their national costume, and could not on any consideration be induced to adopt any new fangled innovations; these appeared universally attired in flowing black dresses, and the most graceful of all head dresses, when worn properly—the Spanish mantillas; others again, more Mexican than Spanish, might be seen in gay colours and large ill-fitting crinolines, made in Europe, I suppose, especially for export, as one never could find such monstrous affairs, even in poor Leech's most extravagant caricatures. These young ladies, who were inclined to introduce European fashions, still had not the courage to attempt a bonnet, being satisfied with their national rebozos. Again, large numbers of the fair sex of the poorer classes—principally Indians—looked very pic-

turesque in their coloured petticoats, tight fitting bodices, and dark eyes, just peeping from the folds of their rebozos. Of the opposite sex, might be observed the rich haciendado or landed proprietor, with his large felt "sombrero," or hat, embroidered with gold and silver, having, perhaps, from two to three hundred dollars, or £40 to £60 worth of bullion, round the brim, black jacket, slashed with silver braid, and pantaloons, with double rows of silver buttons down each seam, his feet encumbered with elaborately carved heavy spurs, of the same metal. Also the tall, athletic-looking "ranchero," or farmer, dressed in a suit of buff-coloured leather, with untanned deerskin leggings reaching to the thigh, at once the picture of health and activity, while perhaps by his side would be walking his cousin of the town, a pale, unhealthy looking lad, affecting European dress, and a tall hat, and presenting the appearance of an undertaker's assistant. Nor was the scene devoid of the enlivening effect of military uniforms; in addition to the blue and red of the Mexican army, there were

the gaily dressed Zouave, and the jaunty looking Chasseur d'Afrique. All and everyone seemed bent on enjoying the pleasures of the hour; laughing, talking, smoking cigarettos, and flirting, seemed to be the universal occupation.

A visit to the baths in the morning was very enjoyable; each separate bath is large enough to swim in, having a stream of the most beautiful clear water running through it, and it is shared with you by numbers of pretty little trout. It must not, however, be inferred that bathing is a great national weakness with the Mexican; as a rule they take a bath about once a month, though professing to do so weekly. They always make it quite an event, probably talking about it days before, and it has always been a source of wonder to me how the number of public baths in some of the large cities make it pay.

The majority of Mexicans *never* wash their faces, except when taking a hot bath, as they consider doing so very injurious, especially to a person who is in the habit of being much exposed to the sun. I have frequently been expos-

tulated with when putting my head and face into cold water of a morning, being told that it would certainly kill me.

We decided on remaining here for several days in order to purchase horses and hire servants for our journey, as between this and Guadalajara, a distance of some three hundred miles, there was then no diligence, as several bridges were broken or otherwise out of repair, which no one considered it their work to mend.

The English Consul, Mr. Price, a member of the great house of Baron and Co., of Mexico and San Francisco, was very kind in rendering us every assistance in his power, as well as in showing us the lions of Tepic and its neighbourhood. The town contains about fifteen thousand inhabitants; the climate is one of the most delightful I ever experienced, always free from cold, yet never oppressively hot, producing all the luxurious vegetation of the tropical, as well as the more substantial fruits, vegetables, &c., of the temperate zone.

I must not forget to mention the cotton factory of Messrs. Baron and Co., and the magnifi-

cent garden attached to it, which latter displays the wonderful manner in which this country is gifted by Providence, a thorough inspection of which we were enabled to have, through the politeness of Mr. Fowler, the manager, who was the gentleman before alluded to as our travelling companion from San Blas.

The factory is situated about half a mile from the town on the banks of a very rapid little river, from which it derives its water power. About one thousand people here obtain employment, in addition to the large staff of arrieros and waggoners who are constantly bringing the raw material from the neighbouring haciendas to the factory. The latter is a very handsome building, more resembling a palace, and is, I have no doubt, excellent of its kind, but not understanding the matter sufficiently to explain it properly, I will confine my description to the garden, which is celebrated all through Mexico. About six acres in extent, and enclosed by a high stone wall, its first appearance is that of a large grove of orange and lemon trees, but on entering the gate a very different sight presents itself.

Side by side with the former trees, in full bearing and luxuriance, were apple, pear, peach, apricot, plum, and, strange to say, even *mango* trees (so seldom seen except in a thoroughly tropical climate).

Further on again were gooseberries and currants on the same plot of ground, with vines bearing rich clusters of grapes, while the strawberry and the pine-apple were ripening within a foot of each other. Knowing very little of flowers, I fear my account will fall very short of the reality. Intermixed with every variety of the highly coloured and gaudy productions of the tropics, were all our familiar friends of the English garden, roses, azalias, tulips, hollyhocks, carnations, geraniums, fuchsias, &c., while a dozen varieties of the lordly orchid entwined themselves round an English mountain ash, disputing its possession with a beautiful honeysuckle ; and the modest violet, and unpretending lily of the valley, claimed shelter beneath the shady branches of the banana.

Nor must the more useful productions be forgotten, which I am ashamed to say delighted my

eyes (after my late frijoles diet) more than the flowers. Green peas and French beans grew between rows of coffee trees, asparagus was in the highest perfection, and cabbages, cauliflowers, cucumbers, and lettuces, were mixed indiscriminately with melons, Indian corn, tomatoes, and chilies. Such a scene of luxurious plenty I have never witnessed before or since, and I cannot imagine a more appropriate appellation for this spot of fairyland, than that by which it is known to the Mexicans for many a league round, "El jardin del Paraîso"—the garden of paradise.

We were now joined by G——, or rather the remains of what the red flies of San Blas had left of him; his face resembled a red currant pudding, with two large gooseberries where the eyes should have been. I need not say how grateful the green fields and cool breezes of Tepic appeared to him, after his late sufferings. We set to work at once to buy some horses, and after a couple of days' examining, trying, rejecting, and bargaining, I bought a most beautiful little mustang for my wife; short legged, deep chested, and as the horse-dealers say, "as handsome as a

picture;" also, a very tolerable little Mexican bred horse, for myself, which, though perhaps a little deficient in bone, made up for it in blood and activity. G——, who was a heavy weight, bought a large, raw-boned, ugly-looking grey, I think a Texan, but which turned out an excellent roadster, carrying his master the whole journey without ever being sick or sorry, and turning the tables on many who had laughed at its grotesque appearance.

We also engaged the services of a Mexican servant and his son, both of whom were highly recommended by the Consul, and who were to accompany us to Guadalajara, supplying us with four pack mules for our baggage at the rate of fifteen dollars per animal, in addition to which we had to pay two-and-a-half reals, equal to one shilling and threepence English per day, for the keep of each; the distance, as I have before said, being almost one hundred leagues. Having our own English saddlery, we had now nothing more to provide, and only delayed a couple of days longer to have the benefit of travelling with General Cortes and his party, who were expected

to arrive from San Blas, and as we were strangers to the country, and almost to the language, this was an opportunity not to be despised.

Through the influence of Mr. Price, we obtained letters from the "Commandante" of Tepic, to the officers in command of the different posts along the road, requesting them to furnish us with escorts when necessary, or any other assistance in their power. Everything was at length completed, General Cortes had arrived, and the following day was fixed upon for a start.

CHAPTER V.

On the 20th of January we proceeded on our journey, the party consisting of G——, myself and wife, General Cortes and two other Mexican officers, two servants of ours, and four or five of the Generals'. The delays, which always do occur in making a first start, brought it well into the middle of the day before we finally rode through the "Garita" of the city, and as our first march was continually interrupted in altering bridles, girths, stirrups, &c., which were either too long or too short, and in re-packing the loads of the mules, which had not yet "shaken down" into their places, it was just getting dusk as we entered a small village not more than four leagues from our starting point.

I had a letter of introduction to a Frenchman, who owned an hacienda here, but, as luck would have it, he was away from home, and his servants

were taking advantage of his absence to hold a grand "fandángo," or ball, at which everyone was in such a state of excitement, what with "mescal" and dancing, that we could not elicit the slightest attention from any of his people. I should here explain that mescal is a description of whisky distilled from the magúey, a species of large aloe, of the cactus family; from the same plant is also made the national drink, called púlque, of which the Mexicans are so fond.

There was no meson in the place, and no one seemed inclined to receive us into their house, and there appeared every probability of our having to "camp out."

At last, through the diplomacy of our "mozos," as servants are called, the use of a house belonging to an Indian family was obtained, if such an appellation can be applied to a structure composed of "adóbes," or bricks made of common mud, baked in the sun, and roughly thatched with the coarse stalks of Indian corn. It consisted of one room only, and, as usual, no window. In it were all the household gods of the family, cooking utensils, clothing, eatables, &c. The

furniture consisted only of a few boards on a stretcher, in lieu of a bed, and a wooden stool. Although the family had vacated their mansion in our favour there were other occupants which we found it much more difficult to get rid of; hens were roosting on the rafters, and pigeons cooed in some unknown regions overhead, while two cur dogs resisted all attempts to keep them out, coming back immediately, regardless of blows and kicks. This we could not prevent, as it was necessary for ventilation to keep the door open. G—— and the mozos slept outside, with their saddles for pillows and India petates for beds. After a wretched night passed with the musquitoes and fleas, we were aroused by a message from the Frenchman, who had just returned, asking us to take a "desayúno," or early breakfast, with him, which he said would be ready on the instant, to enable us to start before the sun was up. On repairing to his house we were there detained upwards of two hours, receiving the assurance every five minutes that coffee would be ready instantly. At last, losing all patience, the sun being already high in the horizon, we bid him good morning,

and mounting our horses, started on our journey fasting. I was afterwards informed by one of our mozos that the cows which were to supply the breakfast milk were still in the mountain, the men who had gone to catch them not yet having succeeded in doing so, and that there was no fire, as the boy had not arrived with the charcoal from the woods where it was made. This, as I subsequently learnt, was not at all a singular instance of the bad management in Mexican households.

We travelled in this manner for several days, starting always before daybreak, and sometimes halting about ten a.m., resuming our journey after a halt for breakfast, about three in the afternoon; at other times, when the distance to the next stage was not too great, we performed it at one stretch, generally arriving about twelve or one o'clock. On these occasions the long fast was very distressing, especially to a lady, as nothing but a cup of coffee or chocolate could ever be obtained so early in the morning, and very often neither of those.

The accommodation varied sometimes; should the halting place be in a small town or good

sized village, we might obtain a tolerable room, with a clean stone floor, wooden bedstead, and deal table, and chairs; while at others nothing could be had but an Indian hut, like that already described. The Mexicans have very loose ideas of modesty. On one occasion we had been delayed a day; there were several Americans on the road, principally our fellow passengers in the steamer, and we had always hitherto kept one day ahead of them, but our delay had enabled them to overtake us. On arrival at the only meson of the place we found it crowded, and not a corner to be had. The general and his aides were comfortably installed in a room, he in the only bed it contained, and the aides-de-camp sleeping on a large heap of corn at the other end of it. Directly he heard of our dilemma he called to me, and told me not to trouble myself, that the señorita should have his bed, and that he would go and sleep on the corn with his aides at the other end of the same room. I need hardly say that we preferred camping out in the verandah of the house, which rather offended the old man. On another occasion I positively saw a party of

fifteen comparative strangers, consisting of four gentlemen, five ladies, and six children, sleeping in one small room; just as we were passing the open door and looking with astonishment at this "happy family," the grandmother of the children broke out into warm abuse of one of the gentlemen for putting his feet in her face, while another lady was making a similar complaint against an old Mexican general.

The food obtainable at the different villages on the road was very bad indeed; lucky we were when chickens or eggs could be procured; meat we very seldom saw, and when we did it was generally of so bad a description, and so spoiled in the cooking, as to be uneatable.

Everything was dressed after the national custom, namely, smothered in chilies, and should there be a dish that had escaped this condiment, and could be eaten without burning out the roof of one's mouth, it was certain to stifle one with garlic.

Had we not taken the precaution to bring with us a number of tinned provisions and biscuits, my wife must sometimes have literally starved,

as she could not bring herself to partake of any of the Mexican dishes. Bread was a luxury very seldom met with; only when passing through any of the larger towns could it be had, the universal substitute being tortillas, which are a species of unleavened cake, made as follows: the maize or Indian corn is put into water and soaked for twelve hours, then triturated between two stones into the consistency of a pulp, water being added from time to time during the process, which is always conducted by a woman on her knees; when the paste is ready a little salt is added, and the whole is made into large, flat cakes, about the thickness of a pancake, placed on an iron plate and baked, or rather heated through, over a "braséro," or brasier of charcoal. This is usually done during the meal, which enables you always to have them hot. I found them very much improved by being baked quite three times longer than the usual process. There is one dish in Mexican *cuisine* already mentioned, which, when once accustomed to, most foreigners like. I refer to the bean or frijole. It is in reality the seed of a species of French bean; but I fancy there must

be some difference in the plant to that grown in Europe. The beans are small, some being reddish in colour, and some quite black. The Mexicans boil them for several hours, a kind of soda being put into the water to make them soft, after which, having been seasoned with chilis, onions, &c., they are fried in lard, but so well done that they are served up quite dry like a mealy potato.

The aspect of the country for the first few days was flat, and, generally speaking, very fertile, the principal crops being barley, maize, and sugar cane. Sometimes we rode a whole day's journey through an uninterrupted prairie, in which the grass, though not high, was very thick and green, as it was shortly after the rainy season ; but in the dry weather it becomes completely parched up. After the fifth day, the road began to ascend very perceptibly, and the change in vegetation was also very apparent. In the wooded parts oaks of different varieties began to show themselves, and an occasional magney, the plant peculiar to the "Tierra fria," or cold country, also might be seen. This latter, to which I have before alluded,

is to the poorer classes of Mexico literally the tree of life.

First of all, from its sap is fermented the national drink called pulque, which is manufactured as follows:—When the plant has arrived at maturity, which is supposed to be in about seven years, it throws out a large heart like a cabbage, white in the centre; this is cut out, and the small end of a long pearl-shaped gourd is inserted. To this is attached a tube of bamboo, from which a man sucks up the sap, which falls into the large end of the gourd; this, when full, is emptied into a pigskin, thrown across a donkey's back, and taken to the hacienda, where it is put into a large vat, also made of pigskin, stretched over framework, and it is there left for two or three days to ferment, after which it is ready for use. When new, it is very sweet, and pleasant drinking, but has rather a slimy effect on the palate; if let remain for two or three days longer, it becomes strong, and loses much of its sweetness. The strength of it is quite equal to that of mild or strong ale, according to the length of time it is allowed to ferment. From this is again distilled

the coarse spirit called mescal, also referred to before; and in Tequila and its neighbourhood a much finer description is made from the root of the same plant, which is first baked in an oven of adobes, and afterwards put into the still; this has a smoky flavour, very much resembling Irish whisky, the finer qualities being quite equal in flavour to that excellent spirit. The heart of the plant is much used by the Indians as a vegetable, being, when well cooked, very wholesome and nutritious; while a small white worm, or, rather, grub, which is formed in the leaves, is considered the greatest delicacy of the table when well fried in lard. Paper, rope, saddle cloths, and a variety of articles, are made from the branches, and the large thick, flat leaves form the universal roofing for Indian huts in the districts where it grows; while the sharp, straight thorns at the ends of the branches supply the substitute for needles to the Indian women.

It is much cultivated on the upper plateaux of Mexico, forming the principal wealth of the haciendas, and is planted in long regular rows, often with barley between them, each plant being

computed to be worth, when arrived at maturity, from ten to fifteen dollars, the realising of which extends over from two to three years; after which, the process of extracting the sap kills it, when it is dug up, and replaced by a young plant.

The higher orders of Mexicans, perhaps, drink as little as any nation I have ever known; boozing at bars, as in America, is unknown among them. The lower classes seem to take periodical fits of drinking, at which times they become quite maddened; this is particularly so with the Indians, who, when under the influence of liquor, seem to have a thirst for blood, and usually on such occasions commit some act of stabbing, or wounding.

We journeyed onwards for several days without much change, the road all the time ascending until we reached the large elevated plateau overlooking the town of Tequila, which is situated in a pleasant little valley.

Having a letter of recommendation to the "commandante," we rode direct to his house, and were received by him at the door, and conducted through a long line of soldiers, guards, orderlies, servants,

&c., until we reached the "Sala," or drawing room, and as this was a very fair specimen of what Mexican reception rooms usually are, it deserves a little description.

It was a long and lofty chamber, with a polished oak floor, at the extreme end of which was placed a small Turkey carpet, on which was a large sofa and two easy chairs, with a small table placed in the middle. These, with the exception of a few seats placed on each side of the other portion of the room, constituted the whole of the furniture. We were conducted by our host to the sofa, which is always considered the seat of honour, reserved for guests, he and his son taking the seats on the easy chairs on each side of us. The first thing they did was to offer us cigarettes, which is really in Mexico almost a universal custom on receiving visitors, to omit doing which might be construed into a breach of etiquette.

The usual Mexican compliments then commenced; the Commandante, who was really a very fine old fellow, of pure Spanish descent, with the air and hauteur of a grandee, and the studied

politeness of the old school, still practised all the hacknied absurdities so common among Mexicans. After enquiring after our health, and how we had passed the journey, &c., he told us that it was impossible for him to describe his joy at the good fortune which had brought him this visit, and assured us that his house, his wife, his horses, dogs, money, and everything that he possessed were at our disposal, and that he should only feel too much honour at our appropriating any or all of them. These speeches, extravagant as they may seem, were merely intended as empty compliments, and are what any polite Mexican would say on any such an occasion. Should you make a remark admiring a horse, gun, saddle, or any other article belonging to him, in his presence, the invariable reply would be—"*Es de usted, senor*" (It is yours, sir), but should any ignoramus take him at his word his astonishment and disgust would be extreme, and he would manage, by some excuse or other, to get out of it. I have frequently been introduced by gentlemen to their wives in these terms—"*Mi esposa, senor, a la disposicion de usted*" (My wife, sir, at your

service, or your disposal). A friend of mine was once placed in a very embarrassing situation by one of these complimentary speeches. He was calling with his wife, who had lately joined him from England, and was ignorant of the customs of the country, on a young and pretty Mexican matron. During the conversation her little boy entered the room, and my friend naturally enquired—"Is this your son, señorita?" To which the lady replied, with a coquettish smile—

"*Si, senor, y de usted tambien.*" (Yes, sir, and yours also.)

The effect produced upon his wife I leave to the imagination of my readers.

Chocolate was now handed round, after which we were conducted to our rooms to refresh ourselves a little, and about nine o'clock supper was announced, and such a supper we had not tasted for many a day. Soup, fish from the "laguna," or lake, mutton, and fowls, dressed in many different ways, salad, sweets, &c., winding up with the two great national Mexican dishes, namely, "molé" of turkey, and "frijoles." The former is a stew of turkey, seasoned beautifully with

different spices and the everlasting red chilies, but so well disguised and moderated that the most delicate palate would not have been offended by it. French wines and sherry were in abundance, and at the end of the repast some magnificent "Mescal de Tequila," already alluded to, was placed upon the table, which our host assured us was thirty years old.

Though upwards of sixty, this old warrior had taken unto himself a very pretty young wife, who did the honours of her husband's table to perfection. Generals Cortes, Alvarez (not the Liberal of that name), and several officers of the garrison, formed a portion of the party, as well as some of the Americans, of both sexes, who were travellers like ourselves. Dancing was introduced after supper, and the Mexican garrison band which played, acquitted itself very creditably.

Mexicans have, as a nation, a wonderful taste for music; not only are all their military bands very good, but the smallest village usually has its brass band; the performers, many of whom are Indians, frequently learn in a great measure

by ear. The guitar is universally played by both sexes, and can be bought for from one real (6d. English) upwards. They also frequently accompany it by many wild and plaintive national songs.

We did not see much of the town on the following day, as we had again to take the road; but it seemed well built and clean, containing about 10,000 inhabitants, and was garrisoned by 1,000 Mexican troops. Our kind host and hostess, and a numerous retinue, accompanied us on horseback for the first league of the road, the lady riding in a muslin dress and an enormous crinoline; they had sent a messenger forward, and had breakfast ready prepared at a small village, a league from Tequila, which we all partook of together, after which we very reluctantly bid them farewell, and continued our march.

Hospitality is universally met with in Mexico, the absence in many parts of inns making it almost inevitable. Any traveller, on reaching an hacienda, rides up to the door as a matter of course, servants come for his horse, and he is received by the host, who, after chocolate and

compliments have been offered, not forgetting the cigarette, conducts him to his room to refresh himself, before the family dinner or supper, as the case may be. He is welcome to remain as long as he chooses, during which period the best of everything the hacienda contains is freely supplied to him and his horse. A Prussian with whom I was acquainted, and who was in pecuniary difficulties, lived for over a twelvemonth entirely on the different haciendas in the valley of Mexico, his entire capital consisting of a horse, saddle and bridle, two suits of clothes, carried in his saddle bags, and a revolver. He used to stay a week or two at each hacienda, taking them all in turn, and was as well known as the weekly postman; and I believe he never once received a cold welcome; on the contrary, his advent was regularly looked forward to by his entertainers.

Nothing worthy of notice occurred to us between this and Guadalajara; rising at from three to four o'clock, according to the length of the day's march, the long weary ride in the dark, following the guide in single file, for fear of riding into a hole, the same scorching after the sun

rose, until the halting place for the night was reached, the same chilies and frijoles for dinner. Every now and then we met a patrol of Mexican light cavalry, or passed a post where a sergeant and ten men were stationed, and, strange to say, we never once fell in with any guerrillas. On the morning of the day on which we were to enter Guadalajara, it began to rain furiously. The whole of the American party had now overtaken us, and we had been travelling together for the last few days, the men on horseback, and several women and children in a large ambulance, drawn by twelve mules. On we plodded through the drenching rain, the road being a perfect running river, and so full of deep holes, that it was most dangerous riding. The ambulance was full, but I managed to obtain a seat on the box for my wife by the side of the driver, as with the wind and rain in her face, she could hardly sit her horse. Before we had performed half the distance from our last halting place to Guadalajara, the mules of the ambulance began to give in, and in less than half an hour more they could hardly be induced by the coachman to go out of

a walk. We were all obliged to become amateur muleteers, each one riding by the side of one of the mules, urging and thrashing him on at intervals the whole way. This continued through pelting rain and up to the horse's knees in water for several hours, only halting occasionally to refresh the animals a little, and take a small nip from a jar of our friend, the Commandante's, excellent "Tequila." It was between ten and eleven at night before we reached the "Casa de las Diligencias," and were very thankful to take off our dripping clothes, and, after a hasty supper, get into comfortable beds, a luxury we had not enjoyed since leaving Tequila.

CHAPTER VI.

Here we decided on remaining for several days, to recruit ourselves after our recent fatigues, and see the fine city of Guadalajara, the third in Mexico, having over fifty thousand inhabitants. We were quite surprised at its extent, and the superior style of the public buildings. The Cathedral is a most imposing structure, built of stone. It has two square towers, of enormous size, something in the Norman style, and several magnificently painted windows, while the beauty of the nave, the decorations of the altars, and the fine collection of old paintings, principally by Spanish masters, which adorn the walls, might rival many of the finest in Europe.

Among the other public buildings may be noticed the "Prefectura," or Town Hall, the Bishop's Palace, and the Mint.

The Plaza is also a very fine square, one side

of which is formed by the Cathedral, opposite is a colonnade, with shops underneath, called in Mexico a "Portal;" it is built something in the same style as the old Colonnade in Regent Street, though differing altogether in architecture and general appearance. In these shops, which comprise drapers, jewellers, saddlers, and "mercerias," or haberdashers, may be bought anything, from an English silk dress, a Dent's watch, or a Rogers' knife, to the common "manta," or cloth, made by the Indians, home-made cutlery, or the sham jewellery of the Palais Royal. The streets are broad, and, for a Mexican city, very clean; the shops generally good. It was curious to notice how everything French seemed to be universally in fashion, in every little shop were exposed for sale French wines, sardines, absinthe, Vermuth, tins of preserved vegetables, olives, &c., while nothing English, in the eating and drinking department, was to be found. French cutlery, drapery, and even fire-arms, seemed also to be preferred to our own. Of course this was due in a great measure to the occupation of the country by French troops,

which formed no mean portion of the customers. Many of the lower order of Mexicans have an idea that there are only two countries in the world besides their own, namely, France and the United States, from one or other of which most of their foreign luxuries are supplied. A friend of mine, while travelling alone in the north of Mexico, fell one day into the hands of the Liberals. They at first were for hanging immediately what they supposed to be "the accursed Frenchman," but, through the interference of the Colonel, the execution was delayed until a few questions could be put to him. He was then asked to what country he belonged, France or America, to which he replied, neither, that his country was called Ireland. The Colonel on this looked very "wise," and said, doubtfully, "that is, I believe, a portion of the United States." My friend said, "No, that it was in Europe;" upon which the Colonel was thoroughly puzzled. At last a bright idea struck the Patlander; he said, "The Irish are the Liberals of England." This was quite sufficient; he was immediately released, and instead of a yard of hemp being

supplied for him, he was fêted and treated as an honoured guest, the Colonel having made the following speech to him:—"I don't know where your country is, never having heard of the places you mention. I suppose they are a long way off, but it is clear to me that our principles are the same, and that you have the good cause at heart as much as any of us."

There was a very strong garrison at Guadalajara, of both French and Mexican troops, which added not a little to the liveliness of the place.

I here very foolishly exchanged my little Mexican horse, which had carried me so well hitherto, for a large Texan bred mare, giving one hundred dollars to boot, as I fancied it was too small, and not up to my weight. I had yet to learn that the best horses in Mexico, on a journey, for any weight, never exceed fourteen hands, and many are very much under that height; they will carry a heavy man all day, at the same pace, a kind of amble, or "páso," as it is called there, often travelling thirty and even forty leagues a-day, without being the worse for it.

We saw our first bull-fight here, which was conducted, I fancy, a little differently to the manner in which they are done in Spain. It was Sunday (I trust my readers will not be shocked), that being the only day on which these exhibitions are held. All the beauty and fashion were there, at least as far as the Mexicans and French were concerned; the few English ladies in Guadalajara I need hardly say do not attend this fashionable sport, though on the principle, I suppose, that "vice to be hated needs but to be seen," they all go once.

However, the boxes on the shady side of the arena—the sunny side being occupied by the common people who pay only one real entrance—were well filled with glittering uniforms, and bright-eyed belles, all as eager for the sport as children at a pantomime. The ring, which is entirely surrounded by boxes and seats, is about twenty yards in diameter, the space underneath the boxes level with the ground being used as stables for the bulls and horses which took part in the fight, and retiring rooms for the different performers. At the first sound of the trumpet all

the inferior actors in the fight enter the ring from one side, and the bull from the other. These consist first of two or more men on horseback, armed with long lances, the toréros, or men on foot, with nothing but red cloths in their hands, whose business it is to irritate and annoy the bull in every possible way, and whenever he makes a rush at them they throw their red cloths over his horns, and slip aside from his charge with great dexterity. Next come the bauderilleros, who are armed with a number of small flags, fastened to little lances about the size of arrows, with which they invite a charge from the bull, and then throw them into his face or neck, and leaving them sticking in his flesh, slip out of his way themselves. Some of these are on horseback, and will ride to meet him at full gallop, always throwing their flags into him when at a few yards' distance, and passing him on the left hand side. The business of the lance men is to come to the rescue whenever any of the others are in danger, diverting "Toro's" attention by pricking him with their lances, with which, when closely pressed themselves they are

supposed to be able to keep him off; the lances, though they have iron heads, are slightly blunted, so that they cannot inflict a very serious wound, unless the horsemen rode at the bull at full gallop, which is never done.

After going through various stages of worrying by all these above-mentioned tormentors, the bull is supposed to be in a fit state of fury, or as more frequently happens, he is thoroughly tired out, the bugle sounds for the "matádor" or killer. This gentleman comes in alone armed with a long rapier, and a cloak or "serapé" thrown over his left arm. He and "Toro" eye one another as mortal enemies. The bull will generally charge him uninvited, but should he not do so the "matádor" makes the advance by walking up to him and flirting his cloak in his eyes, and as he returns it by making a rush, the "matádor" throws the cloak over his horns, slips to one side, and as the animal passes by him thrusts his rapier up to the hilt into his body, generally just behind the fore shoulder, when it enters the heart, and he rolls over dead. Cries of bravo then resound, bouquets, cigars,

money, &c., are showered on the victor, and a train of gaily caparisoned mules enter the ring and drag off poor "Toro" at a gallop, to make way for another. Should the bull gain any advantage over any of his tormentors, tossing, or even killing them, the public delight is unbounded, and cries of "bravo, Toro" resound on all sides. This work goes on for several hours, until some half dozen or more bulls have been thus slaughtered. It is, I think, on the whole a cruel, one-sided, and disgusting affair, and we found witnessing the fate of one bull quite sufficient to satisfy our curiosity. It is sometimes varied, though perhaps not for the better. In place of the poor beast being killed, he is worried until he is thoroughly tired out, and then sent back again; on these occasions many of the Mexican youths, belonging to the higher classes, enter the ring on horseback, and show their dexterity with the lasso, throwing it over the bull in every conceivable manner, bringing him down with it when at full gallop, sometimes by the horns, at others throwing it round his legs as he runs, and jerking them from under him.

The practice called "colear" is the most amusing to witness. The bull is urged into a gallop by one or other mode of teasing, and when so, the competitors in the chase ride after him, the struggle being who shall get hold of his tail. This done, the holder of it suddenly throws his leg over it, and touching with his spur the reverse flank of his horse, which, if well trained, gives a spring forward, and the sudden shock of his tail being thus dragged to one side while at full speed brings the bull rolling over on his back.

It must be borne in mind that a Mexican saddle is not at all like the article we are accustomed to in Europe. The tree is something like that of a well-built pack saddle, resting on the horse's back so as to allow daylight to be seen from one end to the other, and thus never galling the back bone. It has a high pommel in front and behind, the former being surmounted by a round plate, usually covered with silver, the different studs, nails, &c., being made of the same metal. The stirrup leathers are four or five inches broad, completely sheltering the leg; and the

stirrups, which are square in shape, are broad enough for the whole flat part of the foot to rest on. Suspended to the front pommel is the lasso neatly coiled up, which, when the rider has thrown over an animal, he quickly winds by one or two turns round the small part of the pommel, below the plate, which prevents its slipping off, an operation which, if not quickly performed, may result in your finger being cut in two. The saddle is altogether a very comfortable contrivance, and a good rider can with difficulty be thrown off it, as he is completely wedged in both in front and behind. Numerous straps are attached, for the purpose of carrying things on a journey, and behind are usually worn two long, deep bags of black goat skin, to hold clothing, &c., called calritillas.

It is usual at the end of a day's performance to turn a bull into the ring, with large pads on his horns, to prevent his being able to gore anyone, and the whole of the men and boys of the lower orders who choose, enter the ring and worry him to their heart's content, pelting him with dirt, stones, &c., all being apparently skilled at throw-

ing their serapes (a species of shawl used as a wrap by every Mexican) over his horns when in danger, and getting out of his way. Sometimes an unlucky wight gets tossed, to the great delight of all the rest, no more pity being shown for him than if he were a skater, and had fallen on the ice through his own awkwardness.

After three days, spent very pleasantly here, we again began to make preparations for the road. Our mozos from Tepic were paid off, as they would not go further from their homes, nor did they know the road, so fresh ones had to be engaged in their places. Our party was also now increased by two German Americans, one of whom had previously resided in the country, and as he spoke the language fluently he was of course a great acquisition to us.

We started on the fifth morning after our arrival, ourselves and horses quite refreshed by the long rest, and I vainly imagining that my being mounted in so superior a manner on my new mare made me a very formidable antagonist in case of a brush with the guerrillas. We had never so much as seen a robber as yet, and were

beginning to think they were myths—a delusion soon to be dispelled.

On the second night after leaving Guadalajara, we reached a large hacienda, which was the halting place for the night of the diligence, and, consequently, had been converted into a comfortable sort of hotel. The diligence arrived a few hours after us, bringing several passengers, among whom were our old friends Generals Alvarez and Cortes, who had deserted us, and taken to the coach, also two other Mexican officers—all were armed with revolvers; there were besides, a priest, a lady abbess, and four or five nuns. The probability of falling in with robbers was discussed at supper, and the military Mexicans talked very "big" about the formidable resistance their party would make if attacked. The stage started at three a.m., and we at four. Just as day was breaking, we noticed five horsemen, all apparently armed, about a quarter of a mile off, coming towards us. The road led over a large grassy piece of prairie country, so that it was very easy to make a detour, and avoid anyone if you wished to do so. We made up our minds that our turn

had come, and that we must either deliver up, make a bolt across the prairie, or fight for it; and as we were four Europeans, well armed, we decided on the latter, should it become necessary. The Mexican servants we did not reckon upon, as they were strangers to us, and, though armed, it was very unlikely they would fight, unless in self-defence. After looking to the priming of our revolvers, and placing my wife behind, near the baggage animals, which had closed up with us, we rode forward, all abreast, at a trot, ready to receive our foes, who came on at a gallop until within about a hundred yards, when they suddenly halted, and, taking a hasty survey of us, wheeled round, and dashed off across the prairie on our right. Of course we were quite satisfied at being unmolested, and left in undisputed possession of the field, and did not attempt pursuit, which would have been as useless as dangerous, to say nothing of leaving my wife unprotected. We watched them for a long time as they made a large detour, and eventually re-entered the road, about a mile behind us, still continuing their journey in the same direction as before.

On arrival at our halting place, at night, the people asked us if we had seen the robbers, as the diligence (containing our friends), which passed at mid-day, had been robbed within an hour after leaving the hacienda at which we had spent the night; and we were further informed that the coach was stopped by only two men, who ransacked the luggage and pockets of all the passengers—Generals, aides-de-camp, priest, nuns, &c.—not one of whom offered the slightest resistance. This was the first example we had experienced of Mexican valour, and by no means a singular one. They almost always prefer being robbed on the road to fighting; the reason they assign is, that if a man who is in the habit of travelling much in Mexico is to fight whenever robbers appear, he will spend the greater portion of his time at it, and in case of being overpowered ill-treatment would be the punishment of resistance; whereas, if none is offered, the passengers are usually treated with civility by these gentry, and the Mexicans, therefore, accept the lesser evil, only taking the precaution to carry nothing valuable with them, and as little money as

possible. We subsequently discovered, however, that the robbers themselves were quite as great cowards as their victims.

My readers may wonder why we did not avail ourselves of the diligence at Guadalajara; but in the first place we had bought our horses, and in the second, those who have experienced twelve to fifteen hours at a stretch, jolting over Mexican roads, almost stifled by heat and dust, and consider that this would have lasted for many days, without intermission, to reach the city of Mexico, may understand our reasons for preferring to travel as we did. Besides, in case of being attacked, we could at any rate see our enemies approaching, and prepare for them, instead of being caught like mice in a trap.

On the following day, as we were riding gently along, my mare quite suddenly fell dead lame. After dismounting and making a minute examination, nothing of any kind could be discovered which would account for it—the lameness appeared to be in the stifle joint, though there was not the slightest heat or swelling; she could not have strained herself on the road, as we had not

been out of a walk, and she was going perfectly sound the moment before, not even having stumbled. However, I had to ride one of the mozo's horses to the end of the stage, as she could hardly move ; and not being able to afford time to remain there a day, I had to leave her behind for the mozo to take on his return, and accept the old raw-boned animal he offered me in exchange, which I subsequently sold for sixteen dollars. I have often thought since that I was the victim of a trick, concocted between the mozo and the man that sold me the mare; it is not an uncommon accomplishment for Mexicans to teach their horses to simulate lameness when given a certain signal to do so—as, for instance, a prick in any particular place with a knife, or a pinch in one of the ears—and it is possible the mare had been thus educated, and that these two worthies had practised a fraud upon me, which had I then possessed my present experience, I should probably have detected.

After several days' journey, without any incident, we arrived within two days of Guanajuato, a populous and thriving city containing upwards

of fifty thousand inhabitants; and the day before reaching that place, we had the only adventure with robbers which happened to us during the whole journey.

It was about an hour after daybreak, and we were riding quietly along, when, on turning a sharp angle of the road, ten men, mounted and armed, suddenly emerged from a little copse on our right, and came down upon us at full gallop, shouting and yelling like fiends, and firing random shots at us from their carbines, which luckily took no effect. We were so taken by surprise that there was little time for preparation ere they were close upon us, vociferating to us to get off our horses. This was answered by two shots, one of which, from my pistol, brought down a man who was in the act of levelling his carbine, and the other was fired, with equally good effect, by G——, killing the horse of what appeared to be the leader of the party, and crippling the rider with the fall. The rest immediately galloped off about fifty yards, and commenced a desultory fire, wounding one of our baggage animals in the leg. This had to be stopped, and our two German

friends joining us, we charged them at a gallop, giving them two or three volleys from our revolvers, as we approached, but they did not wait to receive us, scampering off in every direction into the adjacent woods. Three more, however, fell into our hands, one, whose horse got wounded in the charge, was lassoed by one of the mozos, and the other two were not quick enough to escape, as we were upon them before they could get out of the road. We imagined also that some of those who escaped were wounded, but could not be certain. Binding our prisoners with their hands behind their backs, we returned to our baggage mules, and the two wounded men; the one I had shot had his leg broken by the bullet, but the "Capitan," as he turned out to be, whose horse G—— had shot, was only a little stunned by his fall, and soon recovered. Him we bound like his companions, and tied the whole to our different stirrup leathers; the wounded man being assisted on to his own horse. In this order we proceeded to the village, at which we were going to breakfast, situated a few leagues from the town

of Leon, our halting-place for the night, and one day's march from Guanajuato.

On arriving at the village already alluded to, we rode to the house of the "Alcalde," or mayor, and enquired for that functionary. A long delay ensued, and his people were apparently searching diligently for him, but though time enough had elapsed to search the place a dozen times over, no "Alcalde" could be found. At last, one of our German companions, who spoke Spanish well, inquired of a respectable-looking old man if he had no idea where the Alcalde was, and, after some hesitation, the old fellow answered, with a grin, "*Ahi esta el Alcalde, senores*" (there is the Alcalde, gentlemen), pointing to the fellow tied to G——'s stirrup leather, the leader of the robber band, and incredible as it may seem, so it was. This rascal, who was the chief magistrate of the place, who had power summarily to shoot robbers, when caught in the fact, was in the habit of turning a knight of the road himself, and making a living by robbery and murder.

What should we do with him? By the laws

of the land we ought to have sent him to the nearest military post for immediate execution, but this was really such a ridiculous *exposé*, and so thoroughly disgusted us with justice in the country, that we resolved to take the law into our own hands. Having been first promised his life if he told the whole truth, he confessed that he had robbed at intervals for years, making his magisterial office the excuse, when questioned, for riding about with a troup of armed ragamuffins at his heels. He also told us that he obtained information of our advent and numbers from the coachman of the diligence which had passed the day before, and that, with the nine men he took with him, he had made no doubt of our instant surrender, but that when we fired on them, and two of their number fell, the rest lost heart and ran away, not being accustomed to receive such treatment.

We now held a sort of drum-head court martial on the whole four, the result of which was as follows :—

Their horses and arms were confiscated, and subsequently given up by us to the authorities at

Leon; the owners were then stripped to the waist by our servants, tied to the cart tail, and each received five dozen lashes on the bare back, well laid on with a cat-o'-nine-tails, manufactured on the spot, the mozos performing upon them with right good will, and their yells and appeals for mercy testified to the efficiency of the punishment. In addition to this the Alcalde was informed that he had better leave his office to take care of itself, and, with his companions, make himself scarce, as we should inform the authorities of Leon of the affair, and if found, in addition to losing his appointment, he would probably be accommodated with a yard of hemp for his pains.

They were not long in taking the hint when released, all being well out of the place long before we started. The friends of the wounded man came for him, and carried him off likewise, being permitted by us to take his horse to carry him upon. I may add that on making our report at Leon the next day we were severely censured for not either bringing the prisoners there with us or shooting them on the spot ourselves, which would have been justified by the law.

Our horses were now so much knocked up that we decided on taking the diligence to Mexico, which we did from Guanajuato, the end of the following day's journey, leaving them and the majority of our baggage to follow with the mozos.

Guanajuato is a very considerable city, being celebrated for the number of silver mines in its neighbourhood, most of which are worked by English companies. There is also a large trade there, with the north, in cotton and other produce, as it is the meeting point of the roads from that district either towards the Atlantic or Pacific coasts, and the city of Mexico. We received much kindness and civility from Mr. Glass, the English Consul, who did all in his power to make our short stay there pleasant.

On entering the diligence at three a.m., on the morning of our departure, we were surprised to find that all the party who had been robbed were to be our fellow passengers, including the abbess, nuns, and the old priest who escorted them; the latter was a Frenchman, but spoke English per-

fectly, and proved himself a highly educated and well informed man, and a most pleasant companion.

The "fighting" portion of these unfortunates accounted for their non-resistance to the robbers by each saying that he would have fought if all the others would; but that it was useless doing so unless all acted in concert. It appeared there was a division of opinion among them, the main argument on the non-resisting side being the presence of the ladies, whom they apparently considered were more gallantly served by being permitted to be robbed and insulted than by having to undergo the fright of hearing a few pistol shots, which no doubt would have put the robbers to flight.

On the second morning the passengers in the diligence were much alarmed by the report of a shot on the roof of the coach. It was G——, who had knocked over a hare, which was much enjoyed at supper time. It crossed the road just in front of the two leading horses (the team consisting of eight) as they were in full gallop, and

the jolting of the coach being very great it was considered a grand exploit, especially by the Mexicans, who are very indifferent sportsmen.

After four days, sixteen hours in each of which were spent in the dreadful diligence, by turns intensely cold in the mornings and evenings, scorched to death by the sun in the day, often jolted off our seats as the horses galloped over the roughest parts of the road, and always stifled with dust, to say nothing of being half the day in a state of semi-starvation, as nothing to eat could be obtained, except the chocolate, before starting, until the mid-day halt, and then only half-an-hour was allowed for dinner. We at length arrived at seven o'clock in the evening at the end of our journey, the city of Mexico, and took up our quarters at the Hotel Iturbide, named after that ill-fated emperor whose fate, in 1824, was so strongly similar to that of the universally beloved and ever to be lamented Maximilian, the only other Emperor Mexico ever had, except Montezuma, who reigned over the Aztecs and Indians from 1502 till the conquest by Cortes in 1521.

I will endeavour to give a description of this lovely city, so gifted by nature in climate, the fruitfulness of its neighbourhood, and everything to make man happy, and encourage pursuits of peace; but whose annals are one continual succession of anarchy and bloodshed.

CHAPTER VII.

I CANNOT better commence than with the hotel Iturbide, which is by far the largest in the country, and is, as before stated, named after the emperor of that name, it having been his imperial palace, and quite worthy of the purpose for which it was built. It is very superior to the ungainly factory-like building which at present serves as the residence of the head of the government. Its main entrance is in the "Calle San Francisco," the principal street of the city, the front occupying nearly a whole square of buildings from one street to another; you drive in under a large archway, and find yourself in a spacious quadrangle five stories high, having verandahs all round, into which the different apartments open. The solid masonry and handsome carving which adorn the walls, and the general good taste with which the whole exterior is em-

bellished, are very striking, and show that the Mexicans, when it was built, were quite as far advanced in architecture as the inhabitants of European countries.

Leading from this square is another archway communicating with a second quadrangle, very similar to the first, being also surrounded by balconies and suites of apartments; the lower part is occupied by the excellent baths of the establishment, and the "boliche," or skittle alley—a very favourite resort among Mexicans—and from this again another archway leads to a third court, in which are the stables, diligence offices, &c., &c., the upper portion serving as dwellings for the numerous employés of the hotel, and at the end of this third court are the back gates by which we entered in the diligence on the night of our arrival.

There is a restaurant attached to the hotel kept by two Frenchmen, brothers, but it is quite optional to take your meals there or not; it is a large, commodious room, well fitted up, where can be obtained breakfast or dinner *à la carte* at any hour, the usual charge being a dollar and a

half for the former, and two dollars for the latter, but should you require a special repast the proprietors can place you a dinner on the table that would not disgrace a first-class Paris establishment. Arrangements, however, could at the time referred to be made by the month, at from thirty to thirty-five dollars, which included breakfast and dinner; these were the usual terms in all the first-class restaurants of the city. A bottle of *vin ordinaire* costs a dollar; of English beer (pint) six reals, or three shillings English, and a quart bottle of beer, made in Mexico, two reals; other liquors in proportion. The Mexican beer is not bad; there are several breweries kept by Frenchmen and Germans, and one by an Englishman named Blackmore, whose beer, it is hardly necessary to say, is the best, and is really very tolerable, having quite as much strength and body as English ale. There are also a café and billiard-room attached to the hotel kept by a New Orleans Frenchman, who showed great energy and spirit in his endeavours to please his customers. Apartments can be had from six dollars a month up to one hundred, depending, of

course, on their size, furniture, and position. Some of the larger suites, which formerly composed the Imperial apartments of Iturbide, are very splendid, handsomely furnished and well kept, and would not disgrace any hotel in Europe.

The rent paid for your rooms includes nothing else except lights, which are limited, no attendance being given, except for the necessary offices of bed-making, cleaning, &c.; any outside work, such as boot-cleaning, messages, &c., must be arranged for privately with the mozo who attends on your room, who, for a dollar or two per month, will be always at your beck and call.

There are no public sitting rooms, and fires in your private apartments are unknown, indeed there are no fire-places, the beautifully even temperature of the valley of Mexico never being cold enough to render them requisite or hot enough to breed a mosquito.

A book is kept at all hotels in the country, in which each new arrival is required to enter his name and those of his family, for the information of the Commissioner of Police.

Would that I could give a description of the sight that first met my eyes on ascending to the "Azotéa," or roof of the building, the morning after our arrival, but it requires a painter's brush to do so.

The extensive city lay immediately beneath, with its straight and well-built streets, the principal ones all leading from the "Plaza de las asmas" to the more distant parts. The large handsome Plaza, on one side of which is the magnificent old Cathedral, two others being occupied by the Imperial palace, and the "casa municipal," or town hall. At a little distance off also was the "minéria" or mining college, one of the finest buildings in the country, and in beautiful relief to the crowded thoroughfares at the end of the Calle San Francisco lay the splendid "alaméda" or public park, with its gardens, parterres and magnificent old trees, through which might be seen the glistening fountains which are scattered about it.

The din of church bells which were then ringing for matins was not necessary to point out their whereabouts, as numbers of these could be

distinctly seen, also the fine Cathedral of "Our Lady of Guadaloupe," about three miles from where I stood; indeed, were all the houses to be taken away, the churches and monasteries alone would form a very decent-sized city.

A little further on the different garitas and roads to the interior of the country were discernible, and the far-famed paséo or public drive, three miles in length, and shaded on each side by splendid trees, appeared just at that moment thronged with carriages of all descriptions, and gaily-dressed equestrians in every conceivable costume. Far in the distance were the chains of hills, by which the rich valley of Mexico is surrounded, while at their feet, and approaching close to the city, no less than three lakes were visible; indeed it is an historical fact that Cortes first attacked Mexico in 1521, with a flotilla of gun-boats from these lakes, which then reached much nearer to the city than at the present day.

It was after the capture that the building of the present city commenced.

The grand old palace of Chapultapec should

not be omitted, standing on a high eminence, about a mile and a half distant, in a beautiful and very tastefully laid out little park, which had been much improved by the Emperor Maximilian. It is built in the castellated style, and is strongly fortified, having made a glorious resistance to the Yankee troops under General Scott, when, being at the time the cadet college, it was garrisoned by those young gentlemen and about five hundred Irishmen who had deserted from the American army. When one outwork after another had been rendered untenable by the enemy's artillery, the cadets at length hauled down their flag in token of surrender which was instantly hauled up again by their Celtic allies, and after this manœuvre had been repeated several times the place was at last carried at the point of the bayonet, and all the Irishmen immediately hung. Looking at it from where I stood with a view of the long, straight drive which the Emperor had lately constructed to it from the paséo, it reminded me very forcibly of Windsor Castle in miniature.

The grand features, however, in this magnifi-

cent panorama, were the two snow-clad volcanoes of Popocatapet'l, 17,725 feet above the level of the sea, and Iztaccihaut'l, 15,700, towering high above the other mountains. When the sun is shining they appear to be immediately overhanging the city, though really distant from it more than eighty miles.

Altogether the scene was fair to look upon, and very gladdening to the eyes of a weary traveller like myself. Little could anyone have imagined when thus contemplating it that the very spot he then beheld had so lately been the scene of civil war and bloodshed, and was so soon to witness the same in more diabolical forms than ever.

On a more close inspection, however, traces of the many revolutions with which the country had been convulsed were only too evident. Houses in many parts were completely covered with bullet marks, while in some places the more serious damages caused by shot and shell were visible. The great absence of windows before alluded to is also the result of these occurrences, rendering the houses more capable of defence. Crosses also were to be seen on the road-side

almost every few yards, indicating the spot where murders had been committed, and not unfrequently also where the murderers had been subsequently shot.

The following extract from my diary during a short expedition I subsequently made to "do" the larger volcano may be interesting to my readers, though I did not see so many wonders as some travellers state to have beheld :—

Saturday, May 12th.—G— and I left Mexico at five a.m. by diligence for Amecameca ; we two, and an old fellow with whom we had scraped an acquaintance, and who turned out to be an apothecary at Amecameca, had the diligence all to ourselves. The road is the same for the first few leagues as that to Puebla. Soon after passing Ayotla we turned off to the right (south) through the town of Chalco, where we stopped to breakfast, then skirted the wooded slopes of Iztaccihaut'l, and by a slight rise, reached the plain of Amecameca, which is separated from the valley of Mexico by low extinct volcanic craters. The town, generally called Ameca, is situated at about an equal distance from the two

volcanoes, about two leagues due west from their base. Close to the town, on the west, is a little hill some five hundred feet high, called the Monte Sacro. On arriving, at five p.m., we went at once to the house of the "Administrador" or overseer of the sulphur works, which are situated in the crater of Popocatapet'l, Don Ignacio Reyes, who received us civilly when we stated that we were not Frenchmen; he gave us a large room to sleep in, which contained two beds at one end, two small tables in the middle, and thirty-four chairs all placed round the walls. Don Lorete, the son of our host, a stout fellow of about forty, appears to be the active administrador of the mines; he goes up to pay them a visit about twice a week, and promised to take us with him on Monday, and to procure us horses and provisions.

Sunday, May 13th.—Having made arrangements for horses and "peones" (labourers), to be ready to-morrow morning, G—— and I, not being invited to the table of our host, set off through the town in search of a "fonda," or restaurant; we found one in the plaza, where we took choco-

late, and ordered dinner for two o'clock. Having nothing better to do, as it was too hot to walk about, we went back to Don Ignacio's, turned off the cocks and hens which had taken possession of our beds, and slept till dinner time. After dinner we strolled about the town, and went up the "Sacro Monte." It is covered with trees, and has stone steps, with Stations of the Cross at every few yards, leading to a platform at the top, on which stands a chapel, dedicated to "Nuestra Señora de Guadaloupe." Half-way down, on the south side, is another chapel, containing a reclining image of "Nuestro Señor del Sacro Monte," both of which seem to be in considerable repute, if one may judge from the number of votive tablets with which the entrances are adorned, representing, in very original perspective, diligences upset, carriages stuck in the mud, horses running away or stolen, men attacked by robbers, haystacks or houses on fire, sick people in bed, &c., &c., with the Virgin of Guadaloupe, or "Nuestro Señor del Sacra Monte," as the case may be, appearing in the clouds to the rescue.

We lay down under a tree on the top of the

hill, smoked and enjoyed the panorama at our feet, with the two volcanoes in the back ground. The town looks pretty from this distance, as it covers a good deal of ground, the houses being interspersed with gardens. At dark we went back and made tea, to which we invited Don Loreto, in order to draw him out a bit.

Monday, May 14th.—We got off at about nine o'clock, having a ride of only five leagues to do before reaching the rancho of Flamacas, where we are to sleep to-night. G——, Don Loreto, and I, went on horseback, and a peon trotted on foot, carrying an Alpine stick which I had made in Mexico, and leading a horse laden with provisions, clothes, &c. The first part of our road was the same as that by which Cortes originally descended into the valley of Mexico, namely, the pass between the two volcanoes. It lay through magnificent pine forests, consisting chiefly of the "ocote," or pitch pine. Before getting to the top of the pass, across which runs a bridle path to Puebla, we edged off rather to the right, towards the foot of Popocatapet'l. About three o'clock, just as a strong chilling drizzle was coming on,

we reached Flamacas. The "rancho" consists of two miserable sheds, one for purifying sulphur, and the greater part of the other for mules, with a small lean-to at one end, for the solitary Indian family who live there. It is between twelve and thirteen thousand feet above the level of the sea, and just under the last pine trees.

We were glad enough to get to any shelter, as the height and proximity to the snow made it bitterly cold. The part of the hut devoted to human accommodation was a wretched little hole attached to the stable, about twelve feet by eight, with a fire in the middle, and a hole in the roof to let the smoke out, but which also let in the rain plentifully, and wetted the petates, which were spread for our bed. We had to get some logs thick enough to keep clear of the mud; on these we put the only three planks we could find, and on them we spread the petates. We boiled in a jar a leg of mutton which we had brought with us, and made a supper off it, with bread, ham, and tortillas, and drank a bottle of wine, finishing up with tea and brandy and "puros" (cigars). G—— and I then lay down on our

boards, keeping on our goatskin "chaparreras" (leggings) for warmth, and covering ourselves with serapes, with our waterproof on the top, to keep out the rain, which kept streaming in at various holes. Don Loreto and the peon got into the corner, and the old Indian woman and a girl were somewhere in the hut, the old lady getting up every half-hour or so to look after the fire, which was kept going all night.

Tuesday, May 15th.—At 4·30 a.m. we turned out, and tried to unstiffen our joints, and at five, after taking tea with a little brandy in it, but nothing to eat, we began the ascent. We started on horseback, taking two peons, one to lead back the horses, and the other to go up with us. We were nearly two hours in crossing the black volcanic sand that separates the limit of vegetation from the region of eternal snow. At seven o'clock we reached the snow and dismounted, to the great relief of our poor horses, which had been labouring painfully through the soft sand, at this great elevation. I wore English shooting boots, black leather gaiters, as I could not walk in my heavy chaparreros, two flannel shirts, a

Mexican jacket with a knitted woollen one over it, a woollen passe montagne covering all my head, except my eyes, nose, and mouth, smoke-coloured spectacles, a broad brimmed Mexican hat, and my head stuck through a small serape. Two pairs of gloves and an Alpine stick completed my outfit. Yet with all this I did not suffer from the weight of my clothes. We were most fortunate in having a clear morning, and had magnificent views over the valleys of Puebla, Mexico, and Cuernavaca, including the peak of Orizava, the Cofre de Perote and Malinche, on the east, and the Nevada de Toluca, and Ajusco on the west, we could distinctly see the cities of Mexico and Puebla from the same point. Clouds came on, however, when we got half-way up. The ascent was rendered very fatiguing by a fall of snow last night, which prevented our seeing where it was hard enough to put one's foot without sinking in up to the knees. Every few steps we had to stop to take breath, and it was difficult and painful to fill the lungs. The snow was frozen into small pinnacles from four to eight feet high, standing a foot or two from each other. From one to

another of these we had to step, often slipping into the soft snow between, from which we had to extricate ourselves by a vigorous effort.

The snow on Popocatapet'l is of no great thickness, and consequently there are no blue glaciers, and none of those crevices which are so dangerous on the Alps. From this circumstance geologists argue that the mountain is of much later formation than that of Orizava, which is of the same height, but which has large and deep glaciers. The pain in the chest, from not being able to get enough air at a breath to inflate the lungs, was so great, that I was very nearly giving it up when within a few hundred yards of the top; but I persevered, and by stopping a minute or two after every four or five steps, I managed, after five hours of the hardest work I had ever had in my life, to get to the lowest lip of the crater, which is on the eastern side, and about eight hundred feet below the highest peak, which is on the opposite side.

The Indian, who kept his feet from the snow by tying them up with a string in a square of flannel, led me about sixty or seventy feet down

the crater, to a ledge of rock where the "malacate" is fixed, a rude wooden windlass, fastened with ropes to the rocks, by which the men who dig the sulphur are let down to the bottom. From twelve to sixteen peones work inside the crater for twenty or thirty or forty days, according to agreement, and then the works stand still for a fortnight, or more. These men sleep inside the crater the whole time, the only danger they incur being from the stones falling from the walls of it. Since 1849, when the mines first commenced to be worked, to 1866, about twenty men have been killed in this way. The sulphur is found in two states, namely, the "flor," which is almost pure, and requires no preparation for the market, and the metal, in which the sulphur is mixed with lava, &c., and requires smelting. The works produce from fifty to eighty quintals a month; a quintal equals one hundred pounds, and sells in Puebla for fourteen dollars. European sulphur costs there sixteen dollars. From the rock where we stood we could see to the bottom of the crater. There were several holes,

from which steam issued, and a continuous noise, like the roaring of a waterfall.

In coming down I sat on my serape, and was dragged over the snow by the Indian, as soon as we had got past the only three crevices which exist, which are only a few feet wide and from ten to twelve feet deep, at the bottom of which there is a little ice to be seen. We descended to the rancho in one hour, a distance which had taken us seven to go up. We made a good meal there, and rode down to Ameca in the afternoon, which we reached at dark, very tired and hungry.

We returned to Mexico next day by diligence; our faces and lips were in a miserable state from the peeling of the skin, and our eyes a little bloodshot; beyond this we experienced no bad effects, such as bleeding at the nose, &c.

Popocatapet'l was first ascended by some of the companions of Cortes, and a graphic account of the difficulties they encountered is given in the pages of "Herrera," and other Spanish chroniclers. Since then, until the present century,

no ascent was made, and doubt was even thrown upon the veracity of the old chroniclers. The first person who ascended in modern times was Mr. Frederick Glennie, till lately the British Consul in Mexico, who went up the western, and much more difficult side, to the highest tip of the crater, about the year 1828. The credit of having been the first to make the ascent has been claimed for others, who accomplished it subsequently, but Mr. Glennie's claim is substantiated by an account published in the Mexican papers at the time.

The Calle San Francisco, in which the Hotel Iturbide is situated, is a very fine street, containing many beautiful shops, cafés, &c., many of which are quite equal to those in many European cities. There are also several other good hotels, among which may be noticed the "National," "San Carlos," "Bazar," &c., the latter having a beautiful restaurant attached, tastefully laid out in a garden, something in the "Cremorne" style. A splendid block of buildings in the Calle "Platéros" (Street of the Silversmiths) also attracts attention. Here is the office of the

Vera Cruz and Mexico Railway, and also of the English Gas Company, which latter are rapidly finishing their works. The fine church of the "Progressa" is also worthy of notice, being justly celebrated for its magnificent interior decorations and fine music. At the end of the main street is the "Plaza de las Armas," before alluded to, which occupies about five acres of ground, and was formerly merely paved, and a stand in the centre for the band to play at; now, however, through the exertions of the late Emperor, the centre part is most tastefully laid out in gardens, watered by several elegant fountains, and having comfortable seats dispersed at intervals for the accommodation of loungers, who come in the evening to listen to the band.

The Cathedral on the left is, of course, the principal feature of the Square. It is a very magnificent structure, built by the Spaniards, 500 feet in length by 420 feet broad; it has two towers, though not of very great proportions, and consists of three enormous wings, each forming, as it were, a separate church, in each of which high mass is often celebrated at the same time.

The organ loft and choir are very handsome, as is also the centre altar, which is surmounted by an immensely high canopy, magnificently carved, and ornamented with gold and silver, round the top of which are groups of male and female figures, in most fantastic and many coloured garments, as large as life, and beautifully executed.

The passage from the choir to this centre altar is enclosed by solid silver rails, and the steps of the latter are of the same metal, which, strange to say, have escaped the cupidity of the soldiers of so many revolutions. Several of the other altars are also very handsome, and the general adornment, pictures, &c., are as fine as in most Continental cathedrals. The whole building is of enormous extent, and the number of small chapels, altars, &c., is endless. The interior is also handsome, though it would puzzle anyone to say to what school of architecture it belongs. There is a very curious sun dial at the west side, one of the relics of the Aztecs, cut out of one enormous block of stone, the figures being all in the ancient Aztec characters.

The Cathedral, I have no doubt, merits a very much better description than I can give it; but it has already been so ably treated by Mr. Prescott, in his excellent work on Mexico, that I must refer those of my readers to him who wish an accurate account of it.

On the east side of the Plaza is the Imperial Palace, an enormous white block of buildings, the whole of the south and west sides of which consisted of the Imperial apartments, the north and east being used as public offices; the museum and national picture gallery are also situated on the north wing. There is one grand entrance in the centre, where, in the days of the Empire, a captain's guard was stationed, with other guards of different sizes, at the side and back entrances. The exterior is very plain in appearance, but after the Emperor's arrival, it was considerably improved, particularly in the inner court, which is surrounded by a beautiful corridor. At the head of the grand staircase, at the different doors leading to the Imperial apartments, were formerly posted sentinels of the "Guardia Palatina," a corps of one hundred

gentlemen, none of whom were less than six feet in height, and dressed in a magnificent uniform, something resembling our Life Guards; forming, in fact, the "Gentlemen-at-Arms" of His Majesty. They were commanded by Count Bombelles, who was assisted by a captain, two lieutenants, and two sub-lieutenants, who held respectively the ranks in the Mexican army of Colonels, Lt.-Colonels, and "Commandantes," or Majors, and who considered it a great honour to serve in this corps in the above-mentioned grades.

The Emperor had formed great hopes of bringing this corps to a high state of perfection, and even intended sending to England for large black horses to mount them on, all to be sixteen hands high as a minimum; but latterly, when funds began to fail, and his many misfortunes were gathering thickly around him, he had the corps disbanded.

His Majesty built a magnificent banqueting hall and ball room, forming an entirely new wing to the palace; these, however, like many other of his works of improvement, were never destined to be enjoyed by himself.

There is a large and tolerably furnished suite of state reception rooms, in which are some very fine paintings; and though in Juarez's time, who kept up, I believe, no establishment at all, the whole palace had been allowed to go to ruin and decay—still, one would have found on attending a levée or ball during the reign of the Emperor Maximilian, everything as well arranged (thanks to the exertions of Count Schaffer, the chief of the household) as at many European courts.

On the opposite side of the Plaza to the Cathedral is the "Palacio Municipal," or town hall, which is also the police court; it is a fine building, and the prefect's reception rooms are well furnished and handsome. Near the Plaza is also the "Plazuella de San Juan," in which is situated the "aduana," or custom-house. The former is now celebrated for the number of merciless executions which took place there in 1867, under the bloody Juarez. Leading from the east end of the Plaza is the market place, a very large enclosure, fitted up with stalls and booths, where can be bought all the year round every description of fruit, vegetables, poultry, game, &c., the

supply being very good, consisting of cabbages, cauliflowers, asparagus, green peas, beans, salads, &c., while apples, pears, strawberries, cherries, and peaches, are equally abundant. Every description of tropical fruit is also there, a constant supply arriving daily from the "tierra caliente," or hot country. Poultry is very plentiful and cheap; good fowls from 6d. to 1s. each; ducks a little more, except wild ducks, which cost only 3d.; turkeys, from six reals (3s. English) to a dollar. Game is also abundant in season; rabbits, hares, partridges, snipe, and the celebrated bird called the ganga, a species of golden plover, found only in the rainy season, and most delicious eating.

The great want felt is fish, none being procurable but some of diminutive size from the neighbouring lakes, and they are very soft and bony. It is a curious fact that when Cortes was in the city after his conquest he had fresh fish on his table every day, brought from the coast by Indian runners who were stationed every mile along the road, but now upwards of three hundred years later it cannot be had; the railway is

not sufficiently advanced and Indians are too scarce. Some few years ago an Englishman tried to supply the market with fish, packed in ice at Vera Cruz, and brought in light carts with relays of horses all along the road, but owing to the bad state of the latter his carts were perpetually breaking down, and their freight consequently wasted, and little more than a year served to ruin the poor fellow.

There is a very good supply of ice in the city brought from the two volcanoes, and also from one or two steam manufactories which have lately been established.

CHAPTER VIII.

At the risk of wearying my readers I continue my description of the city of Mexico and its environs. As I have to describe so many important and thrilling events which occurred there, it is indispensable that the position and other peculiarities of its different suburban dependencies should be pointed out.

Proceeding in a north-westerly direction from the Grand Plaza for about a mile and a half through a straight though dirty and ill-paved street you arrive at the "Garitta de Guadaloupe," close to which is the pulque exchange and custom-house, at which growers and dealers meet daily for the transaction of business, and where also the town duties on that very favourite beverage are collected. It is almost incredulous the quantity of this article which daily enters the city, variously estimated at from thirty thousand to fifty thou-

sand arobas (an aroba, twenty-five pounds,) and pays six reals duty at the garita, selling in Mexico at two-and-a-half dollars.

Passing out of the garita, the town and splendid cathedral of Guadaloupe break into view, the road to which is one straight line of about two miles in length, running between rows of tall trees, having the railroad on the left, and the commencement of the lake of San Christobal on the right.

On arriving at the town, where there is a railway station, you are at once struck by the air of extreme poverty and dullness which pervades the whole place; it would seem that the inhabitants spent all their money and energies on their magnificent cathedral, dedicated to "Nuestra Señora de Guadaloupe," the origin of which, they state, was as follows:—

Several centuries ago a certain Indian, named Juan Diego, in passing a small image of the virgin placed on the top of a little hill, which is situated just behind the present cathedral, stopped to offer up his prayers. In the midst of his devotions the Virgin suddenly appeared to

him, when he instantly fell with his face to the ground. She commended his religious zeal, and told him that henceforth this spot should be the especial place of worship of his race, and that moreover she would give them a spring of life, the waters of which would heal the diseases and infirmities of all true believers who drank of them. She then vanished as suddenly as she had come. On looking about him, Juan Diego perceived at the foot of the hill a beautiful spring of water and a little chapel, both of which had come into existence during his vision, while on his serape, which was wound round his shoulders at the time, was a picture of the virgin, who had so lately appeared to him, indelibly engraved on the stuff in bright and beautiful colours.

The present cathedral was built on the site, or rather added to this chapel, and the spring, which has a strong mixture of sulphur in its water, is now enclosed by a little shrine, and eagerly sought to this day by the sick, halt, and maimed, as a remedy for present diseases, and also by many in good health as a preventative against future illness.

The Serape of Juan is still hung up in the cathedral, handsomely framed and glazed, and appears to be of the same description as those made at this period. The picture, which is evidently done by some peculiar process, is beautiful considering the rough material—half wool, half cotton—on which it was executed, and preserves its bright colours wonderfully. It is held in great veneration by the Indian population, who come often two or three hundred miles on foot to pay their devotions or bring their offerings of either produce or money to "Nuestra Señora de Guadaloupe," and it is through them that the funds of the Cathedral are so rich and flourishing. It is, without exception, the handsomest I have ever seen; the altar steps and railings are of solid silver, and the images of saints and other ornaments of pure gold; the virgin herself is of the latter metal, beautifully ornamented with precious stones, and her dress is one complete mass of the most costly jewels, which have been added from time to time as new donations arrived.

There was a lottery every fortnight in Mexico, at a dollar a ticket, with prizes, from 3,000

dollars downwards, for the sole benefit of the Virgin of Guadaloupe, which alone legitimately brought in a revenue of upwards of 2,000 dollars each fortnight, besides the curious fact that hardly anyone was ever known to draw the large prize, it being said that the priests so arranged matters that the Virgin herself always had the winning ticket.

I may here mention the universal love of the Mexican people for all games or speculations of chance. The lottery just described was by no means the only or the largest one in the city.

The great lottery of the Havanna takes place monthly, and in addition to the grand prize of 100,000 dollars (£20,000) it also contains upwards of two hundred smaller ones, varying from 25,000 dollars to fifteen dollars. It is under the auspices of the local government, and the drawing, which takes place under the surveillance of the police, is conducted with perfect fairness. Many of the large mercantile houses in the United States, as well as in Mexico, invest considerable sums annually in the purchase of tickets, for the sale of which there are numerous agents, and the invest-

ment is frequently found a very fortunate one. Many friends of mine, who took tickets regularly and systematically, were considerable gainers. There were also several small lotteries in the capital, besides those already mentioned, which were humble imitations of them; some took place even daily, so rapid was the sale of tickets. They commenced at a half real (threepence) per ticket, the highest prize being 250 dollars. The vendors of tickets infested every corner of the streets, pestering you to buy them, always declaring they want to sell *el ultimo*, the last one.

The national game of cards is called "Monte;" it is, I believe, a species of "blind hookey," though how played I cannot precisely describe. It is, however, the darling pastime of every rank in society, from the millionaire to the poorest Indian. I once saw an old man and woman of the latter race, who had just been completely "cleaned out" by a "professional" on the road side, just outside the garita. They had been to the city to sell matting, the fruit of several months' labour, and returning with the money in their pockets fell victims to the wayside sharper,

who temptingly displayed his pack of cards as they were passing. At the moment I came up they were both in tears at their ill-luck, and the man who had fleeced them was telling them, by way of consolation, to bring three times as much money the next time, as no one could win at Monte with the small capital with which they had started.

There was formerly at the village of Clalpham, five leagues distant from the capital, an annual gambling fair or carnival, which lasted a fortnight. To this flocked the whole metropolitan population, from the highest to the lowest; all who could collect a few dollars went. Haciendados also would leave their property to take care of itself, and taking all their ready money, fly to the seductions of the monte table. Many of the leading Mexican houses of business, as well as private individuals of fortune, had "banks" there, though generally carried on under fictitious names at some of these. The smallest stake allowed was five ounces, which are the largest Mexican coin, value sixteen dollars (or £3 4s.), though in England, I believe, their standard

value is like that of the Spanish doubloon, £3 6s. 8d. I once saw a Mexican at one of those banks who had been playing high and losing steadily. At last he staked all the remaining gold he had, amounting to one thousand five hundred ounces, on one card. He lost, and as the croupier was raking it in he rolled and lighted a cigarette, and turning to the man next to him said—"Do me the favour to lend me half a dollar to get some breakfast. I am hungry, and I have not a cent left." Five minutes afterwards I saw him eating his breakfast with great relish and apparent unconcern. This fair, as well as the lotteries and all other gambling institutions, are now done away with, as the Government of Juarez does not permit them.

The Vera Cruz and Mexico railroad is justly considered one of the wonders of the age, the history of which is briefly as follows:—

Don Antonio Escandon, one of the richest capitalists in Mexico, possessing a commission from the Juarez Government, and having executed, in a very imperfect manner, about thirty five miles of line out of Vera Cruz, brought, in 1864, the

concession to France, where some promoters of such enterprises, having influence in England, prevailed upon a number of capitalists to take it up. A company was formed, and, the empire being now established, was called the Imperial Mexican Railroad Company.

Mr. Escandon was to receive £1,400,000 for his interest, and for the very imperfectly constructed portion of the line then in existence, which was probably worth about £200,000; an excellent arrangement for him, as it was at once found that the concession was worthless without the confirmation of the Imperial Government, and this was only obtained in 1865, after which the works were commenced, under a contract with Messrs. Smith, Knight, and Co., who subsequently transferred it to Mr. G. Crawley, by whom, in spite of great difficulty, eighty-seven miles of line were ultimately opened from Mexico to Apisaco. Before, however, this had been done the means of the company had become exhausted, through the non-payment by the Imperial Government of their stipulated quota, and the contractor,

not being paid, was compelled to suspend his works.

The line is to be three hundred miles in length, of which, in 1868, about one hundred and thirty-four miles were open for traffic, while a great deal of progress had been made with the remainder; in fact, one half of the work had been done. The line passes from Vera Cruz, by Paso del Macho, through Cordova, Orizava, Huamantla, Ap-am, and Otumba, to Mexico, and communicates with Puebla by a branch of thirty miles in length. The principal features in the works are the Maximilian bridge of three spans, of three hundred feet each, and three hundred and sixty feet in height, and an ascent at the Cumbres of twenty-five miles in length, of one in twenty-five for the greater part of the distance; the maximum altitude of the line is eight thousand three hundred feet above the sea.

There is also a railroad from Mexico to San Anjel, a small town about three leagues distant, passing the village of Tacubya, in which are the country seats of the wealthier inhabitants of the city, both foreigners and Mexicans.

It is a most beautiful little place, and is to Mexico very much like Versailles is to Paris. It had formerly the advantage of an imperial residence, the Palace of Chapultapec, which is within half a mile of the town. Tacubya is approached by another railroad, besides that one which goes to San Anjel, namely, one constructed by the Imperial Mexican Company, running by the Alameda; it was formerly worked by horses as the distance is so short, but I believe some large American cars, with what are called there dummy engines, attached, have lately arrived for it. The line to San Anjel is owned, and was constructed entirely by, a Mexican Company, who, by making it very gradually, and opening every mile for traffic as soon as completed, managed to realize very good dividends. It is the intention to extend it to several towns in the valley of Mexico, but the late civil war stopped that and all other enterprises of the kind. Indeed, the large line, that from Vera Cruz, was, up to the end of 1868, in the greatest trouble, for in addition to having had the rails torn up and bridges destroyed by both Imperialists and Liberals by turns, when

peace was to a certain extent restored, and a Congress convened, it was made a party question by the opponents of Juarez, and session after session passed, but still the unfortunate Railway Bill remained unpassed. Telegraphs have been extended to most of the principal cities and towns in the country, for which there are one or two private companies as well as the Government lines, but, of course, during the late events, all communication was cut off.

San Anjel is a tolerable sized town, of great antiquity, and contains some very handsome old-fashioned residences, belonging formerly to old Spanish families; but these, like their owners, have gradually decayed, and San Anjel now is a place of very little importance. Its chief attraction is a large cotton factory, owned by an English firm.

The "Alameda" in Mexico, is well worthy of a visit. It is about thirty acres in extent, enclosed by substantial stone walls, and is very thickly timbered with every variety of the finest forest trees, intersected with numerous well-kept walks, which are shaded from the sun at all hours of the

day. Flower gardens and grass plots are dotted about, and several artificial pieces of water and fountains add much to the beauty of the scene.

In the centre is a very well built stand, at which, during the time of the Empire, a military band, either French or Austrian, played three times a week, from eight o'clock in the morning till ten. This was at first very trying to the Mexican ladies, who are habitually very lazy and untidy in their habits; they seldom had been accustomed to rise early, and never to make their toilets before the hour for the afternoon drive, a *robe de chambre*, and the everlasting reboso thrown over the head, hiding the omission of a multitude of little unmentionable duties of the toilette, which European ladies would consider indispensable on rising.

However, seeing that English, French, and German ladies could not only get up, but dress and look nice by eight in the morning, and also that the whole military world attended these morning *al fresco* concerts, the Mexicans also made the attempt. At first they used to look very sleepy, with their best clothes evidently

huddled on them, but, by degrees, I suppose they became accustomed to it, and probably moreover there was a little feeling of emulation which induced them to try and rival their European sisters, whom they perceived always looked their best at this very trying hour of the day. At ten o'clock the band ceased, and all the world went home to breakfast, and I fear many of the Mexicans to bed again.

The arrival of the Empress Carlotta in the capital, had been preceded by that of a number of French milliners, whose display of hats and bonnets was a great source of amusement and interested curiosity to the fashionable Mexican ladies, who had hitherto wisely never attempted anything more European in head gear than the graceful Spanish mantilla. However, upon the occasion of welcoming her Majesty to the capital of her new dominions, they prepared to do her honour by providing themselves with what they had learnt to consider such becoming additions to a perfect toilet, namely, Paris bonnets ; but, alas! the effect was not that which they had hoped to produce. Their coiffures being as usual most

extensive, with numerous frisettes, &c., not having themselves the most remote idea of adjusting their new head dresses, and in too much dread of ridicule to confess their ignorance to the *modiste*, the majority of them presented such a ludicrous appearance, some even wearing their bonnets the reverse way, or, in other words, hind before, and all looking so uncomfortable and unhappy in their new purchases, that the risible nerves of the Empress were severely tried.

A little beyond the Alameda is the bull ring—a very large building in the form of an amphitheatre, covering nearly two acres of ground, and having no less than four tiers of boxes and seats; the arrangements connected with it are much the same as those already described at Guadalajara, but on a larger scale. Facing the bull ring is the commencement of the celebrated "Paseo Nuevo," which is one long straight avenue of trees upwards of three miles in length; the trees on either side are planted in double rows, and have now arrived at beautiful maturity, affording a splendid shade either to the occupants of carriages or equestrians. Here, every evening in

the year, the beauty and fashion of Mexico come to drive or ride, and the number of gay equipages rivalled many European capitals. Numerous horsemen also thronged the drive in every style of Mexican costume, as well as the many brilliant uniforms of the French, Austrian, and Imperial Services; nor were equestrians of the fair sex unrepresented. As a rule, all the European ladies rode, and, from the example set by Her Majesty the Empress, as well as by the ladies of the different legations, the Mexican ladies, who, notwithstanding the celebrated horsemen the male population have always been, were entirely unaccustomed to ride, made a vigorous effort to commence, and during the latter period of the Empire they made a very numerous and creditable appearance.

The lazy habits of Mexican ladies before the period at present referred to may be gathered from the following, which a gentleman told me he witnessed in the year 1862.

A handsomely-appointed carriage, containing two ladies (mother and daughter), was one afternoon upset in the paseo, and the occupants, who

were not hurt, were assisted out of it. They had both most elaborate coiffures, rich silk dresses, splendid Spanish mantillas thrown over their heads, and their tiny hands encased in the best Paris kid gloves—but alas! on stepping out of the carriage, two old pairs of bedroom slippers appeared, covering feet unencumbered by stockings, while the unavoidable display of petticoats, occasioned by the hurry in which they were extricated from the carriage, indicated that the services of a laundress would have been very desirable.

The chief amusements at night consisted of the theatres and opera: the latter is a very fine house, and during the season always had a first-rate Italian company, who performed three or four times a week. Boxes and stalls might be taken for the season at moderate prices. There were, also, a French and numerous Mexican theatres of various grades.

I have now endeavoured to give a slight description of the city of Mexico, its environs, and inhabitants, as they were in the days of the Empire. I have, no doubt, failed in many in-

stances to do it justice, and to satisfy many of my readers, but those I must refer to far more able writers on the subject, of whom there are several. I have noted things down as I found them, and endeavoured to describe my own impressions of them, and must ask indulgence for any shortcomings I may be guilty of.

CHAPTER IX.

I MUST now resume the narrative of my own personal adventures in the country. I came, as has already been stated, with the purpose of entering the service of His Majesty the Emperor, and, as a preliminary step, I called upon Her Britannic Majesty's minister, and delivered to him my credentials, with a request to be presented to his Imperial Majesty. With great kindness, his Excellency promised to do so at an early date, and in less than a week I received a notification to attend at the Palace at twelve o'clock on the following morning. G—— was included in the presentation, and the appointed time found us in a spacious apartment in the Palace, where several other persons, chiefly officers, were also waiting for audiences.

The corridors and entrances to the different apartments were guarded by the splendid corps of

the Guardia Palatina, in full uniform; while three of them, halberd in hand, were posted at a door in the apartment in which we were, which led to the audience chamber. Chamberlains, and other officers of the household, flitted to and fro between us and the Imperial apartments, sometimes summoning some eager aspirant to the presence, and always being assailed by a dozen others, anxious to know when their turn would come.

M. Eloin, a countryman of Her Majesty the Empress, and Prime Minister to the Emperor, passed backwards and forwards several times with bundles of papers under his arm, showing that receiving visits of compliment was not the only occupation of His Majesty this morning. At length, after waiting about half an hour, the Chamberlain-in-waiting summoned us, much to the disgust of a number of French officers who had been waiting all the morning.

His Majesty was standing near the window, and on our being announced, advanced and bowed politely to us both, and immediately commenced the conversation in French.

There are so many portraits of the Emperor Maximilian circulated through Europe, that of course, all my readers are acquainted with his features, but perhaps few with the extreme sweetness of his expression. His eyes, which were of a bright china blue, beamed with kindness on whomsoever they rested, while when he smiled, displaying a beautiful set of teeth, his mouth gave an expression of amiability to his whole countenance beyond description. G—— at once told his Majesty, in his blunt English way, that he was sorry that he could neither speak French nor Spanish, to which the Emperor replied that Spanish was the tenth language he had acquired, and that it was so long since he had spoken English, that he had forgotten it; the fact was, he did not like conversing in a language in which he felt he was not perfect, though, as I subsequently discovered, he spoke it very well indeed. He talked to us of our own country chiefly; of the late Prince Consort, who, he said, was his greatest friend, and of whom he was an enthusiastic admirer, of the

Prince and Princess of Wales, the Crown Princess of Prussia and her baby, &c., &c., of ourselves, and, in fact, of everything likely to please and set us at our ease. He kept us chatting in this manner for more than half an hour, and on our intimating to him that we desired to enter his service, he appeared very much pleased, and said he would at once confer with the Minister for War upon the subject. At length when a pause in the conversation occurred, a significant bow intimated that the interview was over.

Within a week of this date, we received an invitation to dine at the Palace, and as it was the first honour of the kind conferred upon us in Mexico, I think it merits a little description. The guests assembled in one of the state drawing-rooms; they consisted of the major portion of the ministers and heads of departments, Marshal Bazaine, and a few other French and Mexican generals, the members of the Diplomatic Corps, Madame de Montholon, wife of the French minister, the ladies in waiting, and a few officers of lower ranks, chamberlains, equerries, &c.

Altogether there were about forty of us waiting in the reception room for their Majesties to make their appearance.

At length the folding doors communicating with the next apartment were thrown open, and, preceded by two chamberlains, and accompanied by Count Bombelles and Father Fischer (his old tutor and confessor), the Emperor, with his beautiful wife on his arm, entered the room. He was dressed in plain evening dress, with only the ribbon of the order of "Guadaloupe" in his button hole. Her Majesty wore a magnificent dress of white lace over white satin, trimmed with pearls, and a coronet of the same gems on her head, and with her handsome face, sweet expression, and majestic figure, she looked every inch an Empress. Walking slowly through the lane formed for them by the assembled guests, and bowing graciously to all as they passed, they led the way to the banqueting hall, the Emperor conducting the Empress to her seat by the centre of the table, and then proceeding to take his own opposite to her. She was supported on the right by the French Ambassador, and on the left by

Marshal Bazaine, while Madame de Montholon and one of the ladies-in-waiting were on either side of the Emperor. A card, with each guest's name, was on the plate opposite the place destined for him, and I had the satisfaction of finding mine about four places from His Majesty on his left, from which I could see the Empress and hear the conversation of both distinctly. How shall I describe the dinner? I know that it was excellent, and that the Imperial cook, who was a Hungarian, had acquitted himself most nobly.

This man was, during the siege of Queretero, and subsequently during the Emperor's captivity, his sole body servant, and was the only European permitted to attend him at his execution. He proved a great comfort to his Majesty in prison, as guards who spoke Spanish, French, English, and German, were always in the room, but the "chef" could converse with his Majesty in Hungarian, and thus defeated the brutal espionage of his captors. The Emperor left him a pension for life by his will, amounting to £100 per annum.

The number and variety of the different *entrées*

would have delighted many European gourmands, while the large selection of choice wines was quite overwhelming. There were no less than fifteen different varieties, each of which was appointed to be drank with some particular dish, commencing after the soup with some of the lighter vintages of the Rhine and France, while gradually, as the dinner proceeded, the immortal seals of Prince Metternich, the Widow Clicquot, and Roderer, were broken. Towards the conclusion of the meal, a variety of the finest wines of Hungary, both white and red, were handed round, and with the coffee an immense number of curious liqueurs (of which the Emperor was a great connoisseur) tempted the palate. We were at table about two hours and a half, during the whole of which a very spirited conversation was maintained by their Majesties with those guests who were near enough to enjoy the privilege.

At length they rose, and we all left the dining room in the same order in which we had entered it, proceeding to a brilliantly illuminated suite of drawing rooms, where presentations were to take place. The guests here remained standing,

in a kind of semicircle, around the Imperial pair, who, separating, each accompanied by a chamberlain, commenced making a tour of the company, His Majesty beginning at one end and the Empress at the other. It was here that the wonderful powers of diplomacy and adaptation possessed by the latter shone forth so brilliantly. Stopping, and exchanging a few sentences with each person she passed, speaking in their own language, no matter what it might be, she managed always to touch upon some subject nearest to the national pride or private interest of her hearer, and so nicely and kindly was her conversation addressed, that each one went away with the impression that not only was Her Majesty the most charming and affable of women, but also that her especial interest and favour were bestowed upon himself.

The Imperial pair having at length concluded this rather laborious task, leaving everyone flattered and delighted at some mark of favour, withdrew, attended by the ladies and chamberlains in waiting, and the guests soon after gradually dispersed.

Some time elapsed after the dinner, and we heard nothing of our promised appointments to the Imperial service, and were beginning to feel very uneasy and dissatisfied; alas! we had yet to learn the true meaning of Mexican intrigue and Mexican love of delay, as well as to become acquainted with all the counter currents contending in His Majesty's Government. After the lapse of some weeks we applied to the Sub Secretary for War—a very gentlemanly and agreeable fellow, who was afterwards sent on a mission to the Court of St. James's.

He told us we should write a petition to His Majesty, stating our requests. This was done, and after applying at the "Sub-Secretario" at intervals for another month, we were referred to His Majesty's Military Secretary, a French Staff Major. This gentleman denied all power to act in the matter, saying that it rested with the Minister of War to lay our petition before His Majesty.

His Excellency was accordingly besieged, and at length assured us, with many smiles and professions of regard, that he was most anxious for

our services, and had instructed His Majesty's Military Secretary to lay our petitions before the Emperor.

This game at hide and seek went on for several weeks longer, and G—— at last became so disgusted that he packed up his traps and started home for England. I stayed on; I had come to reside for some time in Mexico, and whether employed or not I intended to remain.

The Minister for War now resigned, and a French general succeeded him. My application had been for a command in the "Gendarmeria," a cavalry force composed of foreigners, and formed on the system of the French military "Gendarmerie," but whose energies were principally directed against political offenders, highway robbers, &c. I had seen the Colonel, who assured me of his wish to have me in his regiment, and who told me that his belief was that the element I had to contend with was French; in fact, that their national jealousy was excited at the idea of an Englishman being appointed to a high command in what was then termed the "crack corps" of the service, and that my friend

the Military Secretary had all along been playing a deep game to prevent my appointment, and was now ably assisted by his countryman, the new Minister for War. I determined at once to put this to the test, and accordingly indited such a letter to his Excellency that the most practised official shuffler could hardly avoid giving a definite answer.

I was not kept long waiting for a reply; it came the next day, containing a direct refusal to my application, stating no reasons for it, and couched in the coarse, ungentlemanly and ignorant language one might naturally expect from a French officer whose father was probably a butcher, and who had himself risen from the ranks. Having perfect confidence in the Emperor's good faith, I wrote him a detailed account of the whole transaction, enclosing the minister's reply to me. His Majesty was at the time at his country seat at Cuernavaca, but the next day I received a telegram from his private secretary, saying that his Majesty had directed him to inform me that I was appointed captain

of a squadron in the Gendermeria Imperial. Two days afterwards, to my great delight, the Minister for War resigned, and I have often thought (though perhaps foolishly) that the snub he received by my appointment had something to do in accelerating this step.

A life of busy activity for me now commenced, as I had the organization of a company of gendarmes which consisted of two divisions, each under a captain, with a proportionate number of subaltern officers; the rank of "commandante," or major was subsequently given to those senior captains of companies who had organized them. The privates were composed of men of first-class character (none others being admitted) from the different Austrian cavalry corps, as well as from the Chasseurs d'Afrique, together with a few others of all nations, including a very small portion of English and Americans, enlisted on the spot, and ten per cent. of the pick of the Mexican cavalry. No one, who has not had the raising of a new regiment composed of men of four or five different nations and languages, can form

any idea of the chaos and confusion, and the many difficulties and obstacles with which we had at first to contend.

Some of the Poles and Croatians (from the Austrian service) seemed really not to speak any known language under the sun; and even their own officers could with difficulty understand them, while many of the Austro-Italians chattered so fast in a jargon made up of German, Italian, and Spanish, evidently intended for the latter, that it was almost a hopeless case attempting to arrive at their meaning.

Spanish was, of course, the recognised language, and all words of command, drill, orders, &c., were issued in that tongue, but alas! how imperfectly understood by the majority of both officers and men, the latter frequently having the advantage in consequence of having mixed more with the Mexicans. I now congratulated myself on having studied the language ever since my arrival, for my trouble in doing which I now reaped the benefit. There was one instance of a French officer who held the same position as myself, who, though belonging to a nation natur-

ally stupid at languages, surpassed anyone I have ever met with. He had been three years in the country, a great portion of which had been spent in the interior, where, one would imagine, a man would pick up a little of the language, but he could neither speak nor understand the commonest every day phrases, the names of his favourite beverages, and a few choice oaths, being about the extent of his Spanish vocabulary; and yet, though speaking no tongue but his own, a confirmed drunkard, and having been dismissed the French service for the latter, he was, through the influence of the French Minister for War, appointed to organize and command three hundred men, of half a dozen different nationalities, in one of the most important branches of His Majesty's service. It was thus that the Emperor was imposed upon, and the Government of the country wilfully mismanaged by a parcel of designing and dishonest servants, foremost among whom I am sorry to have to place the French; and to acts like these may be attributed the inefficient state of all branches of the service, which aided not a little to bring about the final triumph

of His Majesty's enemies. My company, being at length complete, and in a tolerable state of efficiency, we were despatched to the city of Puebla.

Military events had meanwhile not been without considerable interest in different parts of the country. During the remaining months of the fall of 1864, and in January and February, 1865, the Imperialists pursued their military advantages. Colima, Mazatlan, Morelia, and Oajaca, successively fell into the hands of the Imperialists.

With Oajaca fell the last centre of resistance. General Mangin immediately took command of Oajaca, where he left Lieut.-Colonel Coteret Trecourt at the head of the weak garrison. Juchitlan and Tehuantepec did not long escape the fate of Oajaca; but strangely enough, when the struggle seemed to have reached its end, and it appeared impossible for the exhausted Liberals to keep it up, that courage which had failed them when they had the means of turning it to good account, suddenly returned again. They seemed at last to perceive the kind of warfare by which

they could seriously annoy their enemies. On the 11th of April they annihiliated the detachment of Commander Tydgodt at Tocamboro, in Michoacan. This detachment of two hundred and fifty men lost a dozen officers, among whom was the son of General Chazal, the Minister for War in Belgium. Cortinas returned to the duty he had abandoned, bearing away with him on his defection seven hundred and fifty men, and threatened Matamoras.

In the north Negrete bore down upon Salsilo, the capital of Coahula, and upon Monterey, capital of Nuevo Leon, and seized both places successively. This movement was serious enough to force Marshal Bazaine himself to direct his attention to San Luis. The Imperialists did certainly amply retrieve this partial defeat. Colonel de Poitier dispersed the Republicans and vanquished Negrete.

On the 25th of March the expedition which had so long been planned against Senora, began to be put into execution. A division of the Pacific squadron, composed of the "Lucifer," the "Assas," the "Cordeliere," and the "Pallas,"

started from Mazatlan, and landed Colonel Garnier's troops on the 29th at Guaymas, which entered the town without resistance.

The garrison of one thousand one hundred men disappeared, and escaped in spite of all the attempts made by reconnoitering parties to discover it.

At the same time General Mangen penetrated into the Chiapas territory, and seized Tobago, the capital of the state bearing the same name. Juarez was in Chihuahua, in communication with California, where, by the intervention of Racide Vega, he succeeded in negociating for the purchase of two thousand one hundred stand of small arms, two rifled batteries, and three millions of cartridges, which Mr. Seward thought it his duty to seize, at the request of the French Ambassador.

It clearly results, from a general view of the whole situation, and from the report of the French Commander-in-Chief, that it had become less favourable than it was in the month of February; that the insurrection, like the wave which unceasingly effaces the track of the vessel, without,

however, opposing its progress, had re-united behind the French army, that Monterey was no longer in their possession, but in that of Negrete, who, according to the admission of Marshal Bazaine himself, effected his retreat in good order, as well as every other movement he saw fit to make.

Since these events no important military action had taken place to break the monotony of the coming and going of Imperial troops, who alternately occupied and quitted the northern provinces.

We had to furnish two detachments, one at the "Rio Frio" (cold river), and the other at Tlascala. Rio Frio is merely a large hacienda, with its dependent village of "Peones," but situated half way between Mexico and Puebla. It is the highest point of the road, and being open to the freezing blasts from the two volcanoes, the cold there is very severe, a log fire at night being almost indispensable. The house of the hacienda has been converted into an hotel, for the passengers of the diligence, as in the fine weather the coach stops to breakfast there, while during the rains it is the halting place for the night, as

the progress made is naturally diminished by one half in consequence of the heavy state of the roads. Being entirely surrounded by forests and mountains, the neighbourhood was not only a stronghold of the enemy, but roads in its vicinity were so infested by banditti, that it had become the terror of the whole journey, and representations had been made to the Government that unless some measures were taken for its better security the diligence would have to stop running altogether, as the passengers while at Rio Frio were in hourly dread of being carried out of their beds. Our force, then, of ninety men, had ample work on their hands to keep the roads clear of these gentry.

Band after band were captured, and treated with scant ceremony, half an hour's grace only being allowed after capture previous to being hung on the road-side with their own lassos, which article every Mexican carries on his saddle bow.

One officer, who was in command at this point, having captured two men belonging to a famous band, which he had long been in search of, tried

every means he could devise, both by threats and promises, to induce them to confess to the whereabouts of their comrades, but without any success. At last an idea struck him, and ordering their lassos to be put round their necks, had them gradually strung up to a tree but without any drop; when about half suffocated, they were let down again, the same questions being put to them as before—"Would they confess?"—but they still remained firm. At length, after this process had been repeated no less than three times, they agreed to lead him to their band on condition that their own lives were spared, which was accordingly granted, and in less than three hours Captain —— had the whole band in his possession, all of whom were hung before sunset, with the exception of the two men above mentioned, who were mercifully sent to the chain gang for ten years. I forbear to mention the officer's name, as I highly disapproved of the means he had resorted to, however good the end in view, in which opinion I think my readers will concur, though he obtained great "kudos" with the authorities for the affair. He was, nevertheless,

a good soldier, and a very pleasant fellow, but possessed all the cruel and revengeful feelings so often found among the inhabitants of Italy, to which country he belonged.

Tlascala, where the other detachment was quartered, is an ancient, though small city, about six leagues from Puebla, and contains about five thousand inhabitants, being the capital of its State. In this neighbourhood our patrols had almost daily fights of more or less magnitude with different bands of robbers, all of whom really belonged to the "noble army of the Mexican Republic;" robbing being their mode of waging war, acknowledging Juarez as their chief, but whose immediate commander was the famous Carabajal, one of the most celebrated robber soldiers in Mexico. This man, who had shown great military ability when in the regular army, in which he had lost an arm during Juarez's first administration, had, at the beginning of the French campaign, been taken prisoner, and confined at Puebla, where he was foolishly treated with a great deal of consideration, and allowed a certain amount of liberty, "on parole," of all the

eccentric things to propose to a Mexican, whose earliest education is lying. Taking advantage of this, he one day made his escape, and fled to the mountains in the neighbourhood of Tlascala, where he formerly possessed large estates, and every inch of which ground he knew perfectly.

By way of showing his gratitude for the kindness and consideration he had received at our hands during his captivity, directly he became free he swore eternal revenge and destruction to all foreigners, and conjured his followers never to show the slightest mercy to any that might fall into their hands.

It was said he could always rally round him upwards of a thousand sabres, though he never appeared to us in such force; but on one occasion, when, with three hundred men, he had the temerity actually to enter the town of Tlascala on a marauding expedition, we completely routed and put him to flight with little more than sixty gendarmes, and came very near capturing him, having succeeded in taking some twenty of his followers, who expiated their offences the next morning; and I can assure his robber Excellency

that had he been taken he would have shared their fate.

This war to the knife, consisting of daily reprisals, may seem very shocking, and unnecessarily blood-thirsty, but when we consider the hundreds, nay thousands of innocent lives sacrificed by these lawless scoundrels, the families ruined, the houses laid desolate by their robberies and maraudings, and that this was the only way to rid the country of them, many excuses may be found for the orders under which we acted. Would they but have met us man to man, like soldiers, and directed their energies to legitimate warfare, we would gladly have met them on the terms of civilized belligerents ; but when every open encounter with our troops was shunned, the knife and pistol of the assassin being their chief weapons, and their operations directed against innocent and unoffending women, passengers in diligences, and poor arrieros, no other mode of treatment could be expected from us.

The Liberal troops in the north appear to have been of a much better stamp, but my description

of the hordes which infested this part of the country is not at all exaggerated.

My company remained in the same quarters until September, 1866, my time being divided between the head quarters and the two detachments; during the whole of which time, scarcely a week passed without some portion of it having a skirmish with the enemy.

We were hardly ever in quarters, our time being chiefly spent on the road, either furnishing escorts for the diligences or for persons of note who were passing up and down the road, hunting out plots and conspiracies, and making arrests in distant and remote parts of the country, surprising bands of guerillas, and gaining intelligence of the movements of the more formidable forces of the enemy. Altogether it was a pleasant life, full of excitement; my wife was always safe within the pleasant city of Puebla, though she has accompanied me on more than one expedition, and on one occasion her fearlessness was near costing her her life.

I had been to visit an outpost some ten leagues

off, and contrary to my usual custom, had gone totally unattended. I was expected home by six o'clock to dinner, and my wife ordered her horse about four, and attended by a sergeant and two men started to meet me at the house of a friend, an engineer on the railway, situate about three leagues off. It was the rainy season, and before she had been at Mr. B——'s house many minutes, a heavy storm came on, which lasted more than an hour.

After waiting till eight o'clock, and I had not appeared, they concluded that I was sleeping at the post I had gone to visit, and so, accompanied by Mr. B——, she started to ride home. On reaching a "baranca," or water-course, which crossed the road, and which three hours previously had been perfectly dry, they found it a boiling torrent, carrying branches of trees, railings, gates, &c., down with it. What was to be done? There was no other way of getting home, and her child was there, with only Mexican servants to take care of her. The anxiety of the young mother may therefore be imagined; she decided to wait until the water became lower, and then make an attempt to cross.

After the lapse of two more hours, a little diminution was perceptible, and notwithstanding the remonstrances of Mr. B—— and the soldiers, she dashed her little mustang boldly in, with B—— on her right and the sergeant on her left. All three horses were carried instantly off their legs, and, after a fearful struggle, swimming with only their noses above the water, which came above my wife's waist, the opposite bank was at length reached, not, however, before her little horse had been once completely whirled round by the current; one false step would have carried her to a frightful death.

It strangely happened that a similar adventure was about the same moment occurring to me, about three miles off, which, together with the impassable state of the roads, occasioned my delay. This exploit, when the news reached the capital, caused an immense sensation; the most daring rider among even the Mexicans, who are celebrated for their fearlessness in this particular exercise, said that no inducment would have made them attempt to cross the baranca as my wife and her attendants had done.

My company was now well-armed, mounted, and disciplined, the officers hard-working and full of enthusiasm, and fortunately up to this time, through the friendly co-operation of the civil authorities, plenty of money had always been forthcoming for our current expenses, though this state of things was not destined long to last.

On the 1st of September, 1866, I received orders to march and occupy the towns of Orazava and Cordova; the former is about thirty-five leagues lower down on the road to Vera Cruz, and the latter five leagues beyond it, situated on the confines of the tierra caliente.

Before describing the further adventures of our company, I must claim the indulgence of my readers for making a little retrospect of political events, which had rapidly been drawing to a crisis in all parts of the country.

CHAPTER IX.

In referring to the political state of the country at this time, though speaking with feelings at this moment in my breast of unaltered affection and respect for our poor martyred Emperor, I cannot shut my eyes to the unfortunate line of conduct pursued by him in many instances during his short reign, and can only lament that he was not surrounded by more wise and faithful advisers.

No one, who has known Maximilian personally, as I have, can be insensible to his many good qualities. Strictly honourable and upright, good-natured to a fault, never anxious to punish even the most criminal offenders; he always believed everyone to be as honest and truthful as himself; he was also a very erudite and highly scientific scholar. It is deeply to be regretted that to all

these valuable attainments and estimable qualities was not added a little common sense and worldly knowledge. Of these he possessed none. Constantly swayed by the last opinion suggested to him, he was consequently always changing his plans. From the beginning he strove (like the man with his ass in the fable) to please everbody, and to obtain the favour of both political parties; the natural consequence was that he at last found himself in that worst of all positions for the head of a Government—without any party at all. Invited to Mexico by the Church party, who had hopes that he would at any rate respect their rights which had been so trampled upon by Juarez, one of his first acts was to carry out the very plans that Juarez had laid. Churches were desecrated and turned into barracks, military stores, and stables. Convents were sold by auction to the highest bidder, and the priesthood deprived of the dues from their congregation; tithes which they had received from time immemorial. The clergy were put upon a Government salary, which usually existed only in name, twenty per cent. on Government salaries

being a very fair average to receive, if one could get even that.

These acts, which were intended to appease the Liberal party, could not fail to forfeit the support of the Church party which had brought him to the position he then held, but the Liberals had no faith in a man who had in the very outset broken faith with his own party. They also saw all the public posts in the Government filled by foreigners ; Imperial pomp kept up at a large public expense, which latter was so very antagonistic to their Republican ideas, and they determined to bide their time (no doubt with a hope of ultimate assistance from the Yankees) and drive the foreign usurper, as they called him, from the land. About a year and a half after his arrival, in order to please the Mexican people, many old and tried adherents, who had accompanied the Emperor and Empress from Europe, and who formed a large portion of the cabinet, household, &c., were gradually removed from office and replaced by Mexicans. This course, while it disgusted many faithful friends and counsellors, only gained the contempt of the

Mexicans themselves. However, notwithstanding these errors, matters ran on pretty well for the first two years. Money, though always scarce, was still forthcoming. French bayonets had kept the country quiet, and the roads open. Commerce was tolerably brisk, the merchants having hopes that under the new order of things the country would become settled. Emigrants also began gradually to pour in. Railways, telegraphs, and other schemes were set on foot, and things, for a country like Mexico, began to look up.

The next grand mistake of the Government was with regard to emigration. A Commission was formed, and agents appointed for many parts of Europe and the United States; a Government organ started, whose columns teemed with glowing accounts of this "garden of the earth," where it stated "nothing but peace, prosperity, and plenty abounded." This paper was freely circulated in English through the United States, and particularly in the south. A scheme was proposed to the Emperor for granting land to emigrants, especially Americans, free of cost, on

the following plan, commencing with the valleys of Orizava and Cordova :—

Fifty square leagues were to be allotted for emigrant settlement, then fifty adjoining were to be held as Government reserve; the next fifty were set apart for settlement and so on. The emigrants were to appoint their own magistrates, rural guards, police, &c., and the chief magistrate of each settlement to be responsible to the Government that his district and its vicinity would be kept clear of guerillas and robbers. These arrangements for some unaccountable reasons were never carried out. The report was that Marshal Bazaine did not approve of them. By neglecting to carry them out an immense foreign population, that would have been of invaluable service to the Empire, was lost, in addition to which many, who had already arrived and spent all they possessed, disappointed of their land, and indignant at their treatment, in desperation joined the ranks of the Liberals.

The real decline of the Imperial cause commenced after the protest of the Washington cabinet to the French Government on the subject of

the prolonged occupation of Mexico by the French troops. From that date the latter ceased entirely to act on the offensive. Station after station was gradually abandoned, and their troops concentrated in and near the capital, and a few other large towns. I could mention many instances of their neutral conduct after that time, but one will suffice.

A large convoy of Government money was proceeding from San Luis Potosi to the city of Mexico, escorted by seven hundred Austrian troops. Half a day's march to the rear was a French column of five hundred men. The convoy was attacked by a large force of Liberals in a mountain pass. The French column, which was commanded by a colonel, halted, and the men were ordered to prepare their breakfasts. Meantime the Liberals kept manœuvreing and alternately harassing the convoy, and retiring within rifle shot of the French troops. The latter went in a body to their chief, clamouring to be allowed to assist their brethren in arms, the Austrians. His answer was "Soldiers, eat your breakfasts; I have my orders; you must not

touch those men." The consequence was that the Austrian column was almost entirely cut to pieces, and the convoy captured.

Soon after the first few detachments of the French force had actually left the capital for Vera Cruz, on their way to France, in October, 1866; Maximilian, accompanied by the greater portion of his Austrian troops, went to Orizava, when a large portion of his private baggage and valuables were despatched to Europe, which I escorted to Vera Cruz. Being on intimate terms with most of the officials, immediately about his person, as my district extended from Cordova to Orizava, I was kept aware of everything that went on. No less than three or four times in a week he made up his mind to abdicate, and as often altered it the following day. A deputation arrived from Mexico city, begging him to remain, and offering to raise a large loan for him. He received them at mid-day, and promised to give them a decisive reply in the morning. He spent the whole night pacing his chamber like a man distracted, trying to make up his mind. In the morning he ac-

cepted the offers of the deputation. Three days afterwards he again resolved to go to Europe, and even had a special train prepared for the night following to convey him from Paso del Macho to Vera Cruz, and had a boat kept in waiting from the Austrian man of war, the Dandolo, to take him on board direct in order to avoid any possible demonstration on the part of the people.

Do not let it be supposed that it was want of courage which suggested this step to Maximilian. I am confident that his only objects were to prevent, if possible, the further effusion of blood, and to enable, while yet there was time, those irrevocably committed to his cause to secure their own interests and safety under the protection of French bayonets. It should also be borne in mind that at this particular time he was in the deepest domestic affliction on account of the dangerous illness of the Empress, to whom he was very much attached, and for whose noble qualities he, like everyone who knew her, had the greatest admiration and respect. She had been his ablest counsellor in times of trouble and

difficulty, and had now departed to France on a special mission to Louis Napoleon, to endeavour to induce him to continue his support to the Mexican Empire, if only for a year longer. While she remained with the Emperor his affairs were never in so bad a state as they got into after her departure. The melancholy occurrence of her sudden illness may have had much to do with the Emperor's constantly recurring idea of abdication. Just at this juncture Generals Marquez and Miramon arrived from Europe.

The annexed autograph letter from His Majesty to General Mejia, on this subject, may be interesting to my readers. The original is in my possession.

Being commandant of Cordova, when they passed through on their way from Vera Cruz, I entertained them at dinner, together with the civil authorities of the place. Marquez was a little, dried-up looking old man, with only one eye, having lost the other by a musket shot from an upper window during a street fight in one of the former revolutions, but the one he had left seemed to make up amply for the loss; nothing

escaped it. Though decidedly ugly, his face had a look of extreme intelligence. He talked little, but listened a great deal, and before one had fully viewed him, he had taken in almost an entirely comprehensive view of his interlocutor. His manners were very quiet and courteous, and he was one of the cleverest generals the Emperor had. Miramon was quite of another type, so youthful in appearance that he seemed quite a boy, though in reality nearly thirty-five. Very handsome, and remarkably fair for a Mexican; gifted with a wonderful flow of speech, and of a most pleasing manner, it was impossible to be in his company five minutes without liking him, though to a very close observer there was a peculiar smile lurking about the corners of his mouth suggestive of danger. His style was bold and dashing, but he was one of the most wily politicians in Mexico.

The arrival of these two men put a final stop to any more vacillations on the part of the Emperor. They fully persuaded him that they had returned to Mexico for nothing else but to estab-

lish him firmly on his throne; to make him a real Emperor, and not the puppet of Louis Napoleon.

"Let the French go," they said; "the sooner the better; we want them not." The Mexican army was to be reorganised, money raised to any amount, and twith these and the Austrian, as well as other foreign troops, who had taken service under the Empire, they undertook to sweep the Liberals from the country. The Emperor, accompanied by them, soon after returned to the city of Mexico, where all the foreign Imperial troops were immediately concentrated; the main body of the French troops commenced rapidly to march to the coast for embarkation, and the campaign re-commenced in earnest.

CHAPTER X.

Meanwhile, I had marched with my company from Puebla on the 3rd of September, arriving at the pleasant town of Orizava on the evening of the 5th. No incident worthy of note occurred during our march, with the exception of one or two men being struck by the sun, caused by the increasing heat as we descended, and a too free indulgence in pulque, which is a very dangerous beverage to take when exposed to the sun. The descent of the Cumbres, which are the slopes of a chain of mountains forming part of the Cordilleras, which extend from North to South America, across the Isthmus of Panama, is one of the most magnificent sights I have ever beheld. The road is made in a zigzag form down the side of the mountain, which is very steep, at each turning of which is obtained a magnificent view of the fertile valley beneath, while on each

side the slopes of the neighbouring hills are beautifully coloured with the varied lines of vegetation caused by the change of temperature—from the orange, lemon, and banana, luxuriating in the valley, to the pine and heath-clad knoll on the summit of the mountain, while standing out in bold relief in the distance is the snowy peak of Orizava, 17,388 feet above the sea. In the valley beneath is Orizava, a very pleasant and healthy little town, containing about 25,000 inhabitants; it is in what is called the "tierra templada," or temperate country, being about 2,500 feet in elevation, and though much hotter than the "tierra fria," as the plateau above is called, the temperature is still very agreeable. It was while the Emperor was still there that I received orders to change my head-quarters to Cordova, and keep the road open between that town and Paso del Macho, the terminus of the railroad between the latter place and Vera Cruz; no very easy task, as the surrounding country is one mass of forest, affording a shelter to banditti, quite impenetrable to those unacquainted with its geography.

The following adventure was related to me by an officer who had formerly been stationed at this spot, which shows that, robbers though they are, there is sometimes a dash of romantic humour about the rascals, reminding one of the days of Dick Turpin, who, after robbing an old gentleman on Hounslow Heath, insisted on his fair daughter alighting from the carriage and dancing a minuette with him by moonlight.

I give my friend's story in his own words:—

"As you know, I was in charge of the post at Cordova, and one morning, just after breakfast, intelligence reached me that some arrieros had been robbed of their mules about half-way to Paso del Macho, and I resolved immediately to set out with a party after the diligences which had passed down, three in number, about an hour previously, and contained the opera-troupe *en route* for Europe, and some other passengers. You are aware, Major, that the road from Cordova to Pasco is, with the exception of one or two places, one continuous descent, and that the diligences, with their eight horses, go from stage

to stage at a gallop, only stopping five minutes at each stage while the animals are changed.

"My chance then of overtaking them in time to prevent the mischief appeared small, and I even had doubts if I should succeed in falling in with the guerillas at all. I started in such a hurry on receiving the intelligence that I only took the stable guard with me, consisting of a sergeant, corporal, and ten men, whose horses were, of course, ready for mounting at the moment. However, I did not much fear the result of a sudden attack upon a band of twenty or thirty robbers, who at any time are not celebrated for their fondness for fighting. We had ridden more than half the distance to Paso alternately at a hand gallop, and then a walk for a little distance to refresh our horses, and had found nothing but the broad tracks of the diligence wheels through the mud. At each place we enquired we were told that they had passed about an hour previously, "all well," so that we had evidently not gained much upon them. At length, after a brisk gallop of about a league, we were walking our horses through a part of the road sheltered

by groves of trees on each side, when our steps were arrested by the sweetest of female voices singing. And a moment afterwards the chorus was taken up by what sounded like a large company of both sexes. From the sounds it was evident the singers were stationary, which seemed very strange, and greatly excited my curiosity. Ordering the sergeant to keep his men under shelter of the trees, I dismounted and crept through the brush across a belt of wood that brought me to another angle of the road, when the strangest sight imaginable met my eyes.

"Fifty yards from me were the three diligences, entirely deserted, and on a little green sward at the roadside, was the following tableau:—

"In an empty waggon, which had been extemporised into a species of stage, were the prima donna, and her companions, of the operatic troupe, still steadily proceeding with their parts, while the whole male portion of the passengers (those of the troupe excepted) were lying on their faces, each with a robber, carbine in hand, keeping guard over him. The main body of the band,

which numbered altogether about twenty-five, remained mounted, their whole attention being evidently occupied by the sweet voices of the singers.

"The scene was so novel, not to say romantic, that for a few minutes I could not rouse myself to action. It was evident that the passengers had not only been robbed, but the male portion, at any rate, were even then being ill-treated. A minute sufficed to make my dispositions; creeping back to my men, I moved them forward through the trees, to the spot I had previously occupied, cautioning them beforehand, to utter no exclamation at anything they might see. Having mounted my horse, I directed the whole party to take aim at the group of mounted horsemen, which numbered about fifteen. A moment later, and the report of a volley rang through the air, and simultaneously with it we dashed from our concealment, and were upon them before they could possibly escape. The guards immediately quitted their prisoners to take care of themselves, which latter, finding themselves free, were on their legs in a moment, and regained their

arms, which had been left lying on the ground, in different directions. In fine, the robbers, seeing themselves surrounded, with no outlet for escape, threw down their arms, in token of submission, and fell on their knees, begging for mercy. I found three men had been killed, and seven wounded, by the volley, and in the subsequent charge. The former I ordered their comrades at once to bury, and the latter were placed on the top of the different coaches.

"The remainder were then tied on to their horses, which were led by my men, and in this order we entered Paso del Macho, where I delivered them over to the authorities. They had, it appeared, first fired a volley into the leading coach, which luckily did no harm, all three coaches were then instantly surrounded, and the passengers ordered to alight, on doing which the men were made to lie down on their faces. Everyone was then searched, and stripped of all their valuables, after which the 'captain' insisted on the troupe singing the opera they had lately been performing in Mexico, before he allowed the coach to proceed.

"I was so attracted by the humour of these rascals that I could not make up my mind to shoot them, and so, departing from the standing orders of summary execution, I gave them over to the authorities, though this was only delaying the matter, but of course I had no other alternative."

It was always a matter of pure chance whether passengers were ill-treated by these fellows or not, depending entirely on their humour, and not unfrequently on whether they realised a good booty, in case of not doing which their vexation and disappointment would most probably vent itself; though in such cases the possession of a bottle of brandy has often saved its owner from ill usage. A disgraceful instance of this occurred during the latter portion of our stay in the country, to Mr. Beverley Tucker, well known as a leading Southerner, and formerly United States' Consul at Liverpool. This gentleman was travelling by diligence with his son from San Luis Potosi to Mexico. About midday, on the second day of their journey, the coach was stopped, for the fourth time, by an armed band,

principally composed of Indians. Having been thoroughly "cleaned out" already they had literally nothing left to be robbed of, which so enraged the robbers that they beat and ill used them terribly. Mr. Tucker's son, a youth of seventeen, was severely injured, and even his trousers taken off him, and he was left to complete his journey wrapped up in an old blanket.

A report reached the capital of still worse treatment than this to some French officers, who were proceeding to Europe on furlough. It stated that the diligence in which they were travelling was stopped within a few leagues of Paso del Macho, and, in addition to being robbed, the unfortunate Frenchmen were made to lie on their faces, and received a severe corporeal punishment, inflicted upon them with the flat parts of their swords. I simply give the story as an "*on dit*," not vouching for the truth of it. It was, I believe, contradicted in French military circles in the city, but it was of course natural that the latter should wish to keep dark such a very "sore subject" to their order.

It was in Cordova that our troubles com-

menced. It is about one thousand five hundred feet below Orizava, and it is surrounded by a dense and rank vegetation, oranges, lemons, coffee, tobacco, &c., growing wild, and forming an impenetrable jungle all round the town; this, though very pleasant to the eye, is nevertheless deadly in its effects, causing a fearful malaria, and, in the unhealthy season, the vomito rages worse there than in Vera Cruz, while a malignant fever is prevalent all the year round.

Before we had been there a fortnight several cases of vomito occurred among the men, most of which proved fatal, and in another week the ravages were fearful, two and three dying in a day. My anxiety for my wife and child may be imagined, and also what were my feelings when, one evening, on returning from Orizava, where I had been to make arrangements for their removal to that place, to find that my wife had been taken ill during the few hours I had been absent, and had the dreadful plague upon her in its most virulent form.

I cannot attempt to describe the next six days, during which she lay between life and

death. We were most fortunate in obtaining the services of an American doctor, who, with many more of his countrymen, had settled here; his attentions were unremitting, and he appeared thoroughly to understand the disease. He had predicted a crisis on the sixth day, and to my overwhelming joy it was a favourable one. I will here mention a remedy which I found most effectual, in case (which God forbid!) any of my readers should ever be in like circumstances. The vomito is much the same disease as the yellow fever, or "Yellow Jack," as it is called in the West Indies. The night my wife was seized with it I casually met an old Anglo-West Indian, who told me that this remedy was frequently resorted to in the first stage of the disease, that is, while the fever is on the patient, after which period he generally lies for some days in a half torpid state, caused by the weakness left by it. It is a great object, therefore, to render the duration of the fever as short as possible, and the remedy is simply to put the patient into a warm bath of pure lemon juice, which is fortunately

generally obtainable in climates where the disease is prevalent.

Having obtained the Doctor's sanction, I immediately set about its execution. The whole of the company not on duty were speedily engaged in picking lemons in the surrounding grove, and in less than an hour I had several gallons of juice being warmed, which, when ready, was put into a bath, and, much against her will, I lifted my wife out of bed and placed her in it. After remaining thus a few minutes, she was rubbed dry and replaced in bed, and soon fell into a comfortable sleep, from which she awoke in the morning with a cool skin, and entirely free from fever, having avoided, I feel sure, at least two more days of it, and was consequently much less weakened than she otherwise would have been.

Happily, after lying in the torpid state I have described until the sixth day, she gradually began to mend, and in three weeks was comparatively well, though it was many a long day before she entirely recovered her strength. She evidently took the disease from nursing the wife

of one of the captains, who luckily also recovered.

We had arduous duty all this time, in addition to patrolling the roads, escorting diligences, &c. Convoys of ammunition and stores, on their way to Vera Cruz, belonging to the French army, were constantly passing down, as well as immense quantities of the Emperor's baggage, destined for Miramar. All these looked to us for protection, and the men accompanying them gave us an infinity of trouble, our interference in the shape of police being constantly necessary. The enemy were close upon us at all points, frequently making their appearance in bodies of one or two hundred, in sight of the gates of the town, though when we made sallies to endeavour to cut them off we were seldom successful, as they immediately scampered off into the forest, in which they had greatly the advantage of us, through their knowledge of the country, and it was a hopeless case endeavouring to pursue them.

One incident annoyed and mortified me very much; two of the gendarmes, who acted as grooms to some of the sergeants, were taking five horses

to the river, situated a few hundred yards from, and within sight of our outlying *védettes*. As their intention was to give the horses a bath, they were themselves in stable dress and unarmed. They were commencing operations, when suddenly six men, mounted and armed with revolvers, rushed down upon them from a neighbouring copse, and presenting their pistols, demanded the instant surrender of the horses, having obtained which (as of course resistance on the part of the two unarmed men was out of the question), they at once made off to the mountains. It was a holiday in the town, being the occasion of a grand bull fight, but the alarm was instantly raised, and pursuit made in a few minutes, but of course to no purpose. The men stated that three of the number were Americans, which subsequently proved to be the case, three rather bad characters from among the emigrants being missing, and it transpired that they had borrowed revolvers the day before from some of their friends, stating that they were going on business to Vera Cruz. I afterwards heard of their appearing at an hacienda, at the head of a band of robbers,

Mi querido Gral Mejía.

Orizava 8 de

Obre de 1866.

Mi querido Gral Mejia.

Orizava 8 de
Nbre de 1866

Estando para separarme de nuestra querida Patria, y recordando los buenos servicios que U. ha prestado a mi Gobierno, asi como su adhesion y lealtad tengo el gusto por medio de esta manifestar a U. que conmigo, y conservare siempre los mas vivos recuerdos de gratitud.

Reciba U. la benevolencia de Su afectisimo

Maximiliano

and being ignominiously driven off by a party of armed negro labourers.

We had now been a little more than two months at Cordova, and had lost a large number of men, as well as several of our best non-commissioned officers, by vomito. Generals Marquez and Miramon had passed through, and the Emperor had returned from Orizava to the capital, as described in the preceding chapter. The greater portion of the French troops had either embarked or were *en route* to the coast, when one morning the welcome order arrived to march immediately for the capital, where all the Imperial foreign troops were to be concentrated. Hurried preparations were everywhere being made to obey the new summons. Twenty-four hours found us again on the road in the highest spirits, both at leaving the deadly region of the Tierra Caliente, as well as at the prospect of commencing what seemed probable would be a real campaign, as it was hardly to be expected that the enemy would be so shy of showing themselves when the Imperial force was diminished by upwards of forty thousand French bayonets.

Cordova, Orizava, and many small towns, were abandoned as we proceeded; sufficient troops not being available to garrison them, they were held temporarily by the French, but it was inevitable that as soon as the rear guard of that army had turned their backs upon them, they would be at once occupied by the soldiers of Juarez. This was a great pity, and proved very disastrous in its results, as the only communication with the post of Vera Cruz, and consequently the outer world, was thus cut off. I have always thought that an endeavour should have been made to hold this most important line, even to the exclusion of the northern provinces, as its occupation was of much more importance to us, and proved to be of incalculable advantage to the enemy.

Had this been done, Porfirio Diaz could never have brought his heavy siege train to bear upon Puebla, and subsequently upon the capital, for the transmission of which to the latter place he was enabled to avail himself of the railroad; and had the Emperor made Mexico his rallying point, instead of Queretero, how different might have been the result—a good line of retreat, with com-

mand of the railroad to Vera Cruz, would always have been available. Puebla, however, was the only place held on the road, a strong body of Mexican troops being left to garrison it; all the other Mexican troops between that and the coast which had not gone to the capital were rallied at Vera Cruz, which place was eventually the last to surrender.

On passing through Puebla we were ordered to join a large column of Imperial troops, under General Cadena, and it was now that my difficulties commenced in obtaining money. I had hitherto been always alone with my company, and had succeeded in obtaining sufficient from the Civil Authorities of the places I was quartered at. At Puebla, however, I had to go to the Paymaster-General, who gave me a small sum only, saying that the Paymaster of the Force with which I was going to march would supply the rest from day to day.

This was a mere subterfuge, as I afterwards discovered to my cost. With great difficulty I obtained sufficient for my men's subsistence (full pay being out of the question), and when on

arrival in Mexico I applied to the Minister for War for the payment of some 15,000 dollars due to my company, on account of pay, &c., a great portion of which I had advanced from my own purse, he told me there was not half so much in the treasury, and offered me 500 dollars on account. In this manner I had to screw money out of the treasury by driblets, day by day; but my poor fellows were never paid half the arrears due to them, nor did I ever recover a dollar of the money I had trustingly advanced for their maintenance.

With the poor Emperor's death of course all hopes of payment ceased. Let it pass. It was at any rate devoted to the service of as noble a prince, and as fine a specimen of an honourable gentleman as ever the world produced.

The column with which we left Puebla consisted of one entire Austrian Cavalry Regiment, the "Huzares Colorados," or red hussars, five hundred strong, commanded by the young and dashing Colonel Count Keven Huller, a young Austrian nobleman, of immense fortune, which he had devoted, with himself, to the Emperor's cause.

An Austrian infantry battalion, 600 strong; two companies of the "Gendarmeria" (including my own), each about 320; a Mexican cavalry regiment, and two ditto infantry, together with sundry other details, and about fifteen guns, making altogether upwards of 2,500 men. Our march was only attended with the usual inconveniences of dust, slow progression, &c., always accompanying the movement of large bodies of troops, an attack not being anticipated. Arrived at Ayotla, a village two marches from Mexico, we had to remain several days, until some of the remaining French troops, which had concentrated there previous to departure, had left, during which time I was sent with two companies to relieve the garrison of Texcoco, about ten leagues off, situated on the opposite shore of the large lake bearing the same name, whose waters reach within a league of Mexico. Stationed here were a number of Mexican infantry, as well as a couple of companies of the "Guardia Imperial," a regiment composed chiefly of foreigners, organised on the same footing as my own.

Their communications had for some time been

cut off by a large force of infantry and cavalry, under a man named Antonio Perez, and famine was beginning to threaten them, as their garrison was too weak to spare enough men to go out and give the enemy battle. The siege, however, was immediately raised on our approach, and when we reached the town not a foe was to be seen.

A wretched sight presented itself on entering the plaza; not a house or shop open; everyone had foreseen this evacuation, and disposing of their effects abandoned their homes to seek shelter in the capital. One enterprising individual alone had kept his shop open, thus reaping a golden harvest by the sale of liquors, boxes of sardines, &c., &c., to the soldiery; but he, poor fellow, paid the penalty of his boldness. Our arrival was so sudden and unexpected, in order that the news should not reach the enemy, that when it became known that the whole garrison would leave at daybreak the next morning, the rush for carts, mules, &c., was such that our friend found it impossible to procure sufficient for the transport of his goods, and had to leave a large portion of them to the tender mercies of the Liberals.

The next day we rejoined the column, and on the following a general move was made for Mexico, and on reaching San Angel in the evening I was thankful to take advantage of the railway, and send my wife into the city, where I rejoined her on the following day at the comfortable hotel "Iturbide."

On arrival we found that the last of the French were to leave the city almost immediately, and the next few days were consumed in relieving them of the occupation of the different forts, garitas, &c., as well as in granting discharges to numbers of our own men who took advantage of the order issued by the French Commander-in-Chief, shamefully to desert their standard and break their engagements. The order was to this effect: That all French subjects at present in the service of the Mexican Empire were free to quit it, if they desired, and leave the country under the protection of the French army; those who had formerly belonged to the said French army might re-enter it in their old grades; and further that any failing to avail themselves of this

permission would henceforth lose all the rights of French subjects. This shameful order, the sole object of which was to injure the Emperor's cause for the gratification of personal animosity, was the most flagrant act of injustice, and did an immense amount of injury to us. At least one-third of the Imperial foreign troops were composed of Frenchmen who had been permitted to volunteer from that army to the Imperial, receiving, on entering, a very large bounty on their agreement to serve two years.

Many of these had enlisted quite recently, and as nearly the whole took advantage of the order, their bounties, uniforms, and other expenses attending their enlistment and training, were, of course, a dead loss. It was condemned by everyone as the most gross piece of injustice; men who had received a bounty and enlisted for a certain period in a foreign country, as a matter of course, had lost all claim to protection or interference on the part of their own; and at any rate none should have been permitted to go unless their bounty money were returned, but the Com-

mander of 40,000 French bayonets ordered it; he had ten times our European force to back him, and what could we do?

This was not the worst of it. The Emperor, though astonished at so many desiring to quit his service, yet scorned the idea of keeping men against their will. He, moreover, would not permit his Austrian troops to be treated differently to the French, and, therefore, published a decree, informing them that any were at liberty to depart who wished to do so, and to their eternal shame be it said, a large number of these also took advantage of this generous permission, and like the French, breaking their engagements, left for Europe with the Emperor's two years' bounty in their pockets.

I cannot but condemn the conduct of Marshal Bazaine during the latter portion of his sojourn in the country. He doubtless had instructions to do all he could to induce Maximilian to abdicate, but he overstepped all bounds, not only of diplomacy and the laws of nations, but also of good conduct on the part of an officer and a gentleman, to say nothing of the dignity of a

Marshal of France. Several pieces of cannon that he could not take with him, were spiked at the gates of the city of Mexico, and an immense quantity of surplus small arms' ammunition thrown into the canal. On the morning before he left the city he is said to have gone to the Emperor, and demanded some paltry sum due for the lodging money of his officers, threatening, if immediate payment were not made, to sell the cannon belonging to the Mexican army then in the city by public auction in the plaza.

CHAPTER XI.

Our French allies had now entirely deserted us, and the rear guard of their army had passed the city gates. The Gendarmeria, and Guardia Imperial alternately mounted guard at the Imperial Palace, and the garitas, forts, &c., were entirely manned by Imperial troops. The foreign cavalry were kept constantly employed in keeping the surrounding country clear of the enemy, making constant patrols in every direction. This was of course necessary, in order to keep a channel open for our supplies of provisions, vegetables, &c., and also to enable large quantities of forage to be accumulated from the neighbouring haciendas, as when the enemy had time to collect their scattered forces it was pretty certain that we should have to encounter an army in the valley of Mexico. News soon arrived that Porfirio Diaz was fast concentrating his forces in

the neighbourhood of Puebla, no doubt with the intention of laying siege to that city, which would make the second it had the bad fortune to witness since the French invasion.

On the 6th of February, I started on an expedition to Toluca, some twenty leagues distant, in command of two hundred and fifty of my own corps. We accompanied a column of one thousand Mexican troops, with four pieces of artillery, commanded by General Tabera. Our mission was to relieve the garrison of Toluca, and bring it to Mexico, together with the prefect, public officials, and all loyal citizens who wished to accompany us, as it was not thought practicable to hold Toluca any longer. Our road ran over a range of mountains called Las Cruces, and through several very ugly passes. We arrived at Toluca at the end of the second day's march, having had only a little skirmish on the road, which was a one sided affair; the enemy having exposed himself to our artillery in an ill-chosen spot, was put to flight in ten minutes, and pursued by the gendarmeria, leaving fifty-five killed and wounded on the field, our casualties being two wounded, and one miss-

ing. In two days we started on our return trip, our column now increased to two thousand men, and eleven pieces of artillery, with a convoy of six hundred carts and waggons, and one hundred private carriages, stage coaches, &c., containing the principal inhabitants of Toluca. On the day after we started, about half-past ten a.m., the enemy made his first appearance, in the shape of cavalry hovering about, aud firing at our advanced and rear guards. We were now at the entrance of a pass two leagues in length, entirely hemmed in by mountains and forests. We all knew what was up, but there was no help for us; we had to enter and fight our way through or be cut off from Mexico, there being no other road. The infantry advanced in skirmishing order, supported by a strong body of cavalry, and four mountain howitzers, but from the nature of the ground these latter could do but very little. Next followed the convoy and heavy guns, escorted by the main body of infantry and cavalry, the rear being brought up by a strong force of Mexican irregular cavalry, and fifty of the gendarmeria. The action soon became general; we were exposed

to a galling fire from seven different positions, which the enemy had chosen with admirable skill, and being entirely hidden by forest it was a very difficult matter to dislodge them. Our main body was so encumbered with the convoy that we could scarcely make any progress. The only indication of the actual whereabouts of our assailants were the long lines of blue smoke from their infantry. They had one mountain howitzer in position at an angle of the road, some way up the hill. This was immediately captured by twenty gendarmes, and the gunners, with a company of infantry, who held it, were either sabred or put to flight. General Francisco, or as he is better known in Mexico, Pancho Veles, who commanded the enemy on this occasion, was close to the gun when it was captured; but he escaped into the bush, leaving a splendid horse, with silver mounted harness and trappings behind. Our greatest difficulty was with the horses and mules of the carriages, which were being killed and wounded every minute, each one, of course, delaying the whole train.

The fire was terrific, and I must say I never

saw troops behave better than the Mexicans did on this occasion. Let a Mexican fight with other Mexicans, in his own way, and he fights well. He does not care how heavy the fire is, but will always keep advancing and returning it, but a charge he can neither make nor receive; he has never been taught to do the one, and he cannot stand the other. This applies to both infantry and cavalry. About 12 o'clock I received orders from the General to move my men to the rear, and charge a large column of the enemy's cavalry, about seven hundred strong, which were harassing our rear guard at the entrance to the pass. I did so, with two hundred gendarmes, pursuing them for a long distance, and killing over two hundred. They never waited to receive us, but fired a volley at fifty yards, broke, and ran for their lives. Having fought every inch of the road, we reached the end of the pass, and the village of Santa Fé, about seven in the evening, where we passed the night. We had brought with us every cart, carriage, gun, and wounded soldier; but we left, I regret to say, upwards of three hundred dead on the field. Many officers

had fallen; and, more than all, two women were killed, and two young girls were wounded. A more terrible spectacle than these latter presented during the fight, when exposed to the thickest of the fire, I never witnessed; it is too horrible to describe. My horse was shot under me, but I was fortunate enough to escape unhurt. As all, with one or two exceptions, showed great bravery and coolness, it seems invidious to notice any one particularly, but I cannot help mentioning the heroic gallantry displayed by Colonel Francisco Rodriguez, commanding the Guardia Municipal, the best regiment of Mexican Infantry in the service. He was acting, on this occasion, as chief of the staff to the General. Wherever the fire was thickest there he was to be found, at one time urging and encouraging his own regiment, five minutes later charging with the cavalry, and showing them a noble example by his fearlessness, at another moment he would be in the woods, with the advanced skirmishers, who were Indians, fighting hand to hand with the enemy's sharpshooters, and cutting many of them down with his sabre, while over and over again he

volunteered to carry orders to officers at different parts of the field, through such a terrific fire that the General hesitated to send any one, as it seemed almost certain death. When an artillery officer was wounded, about the middle of the action, he lifted him on to his own horse in front of him, and cut his way through a dozen of the enemy's cavalry, till he reached the column, where he placed him safely in a carriage. I was delighted to see him after the engagement safe and well, but how he escaped I cannot think. Poor fellow! he soon after met with a soldier's death, charging Escobedo's infantry before Queretero, where he was shot through the head as he was in the act of leaping his horse over a stone wall. The officers have always been the great defect in the Mexican army; instead of leading their men and setting them an example of bravery, they have invariably been the first to run. Would they but take Colonel Rodriguez for a model, we should soon hear better accounts of them. A little Mexican trumpeter was also particularly noticed for his pluck and coolness, accompanying the General all day, through the thickest parts of

the fire, and sounding the different orders with as much precision as if on parade. On returning to the city the Emperor received us with marked courtesy and pleasure; to all of the troops he distributed the Mexican war medal. He was also graciously pleased to confer the order of "Knight of Guadaloupe" on some of the officers of higher grades, among whom I was fortunate enough to be included.

Puebla was now the last inland town of importance in the southern part of Mexico held by the Imperial troops, except the Capital, and we all expected that the Emperor would here make his chief stand, and give the enemy battle as soon as they appeared in the valley of Mexico. What then was our astonishment when, after a few days spent quietly, without any important incident, to hear that some 5,000 Mexican troops, of all arms, under the command of General Marquez, the Mexican commander-in-chief, were to march northward on the following morning, thus leaving the capital with only some 2,200 foreign troops and 5,000 Mexicans.

Preparations were soon made, and the expedi-

tion started between four and five in the morning; at eight, the whole City was electrified at the announcement in the morning papers that His Majesty the Emperor had accompanied it, the only foreigners he took with him being a troop of Austrian cavalry, as a personal escort, his doctor, secretary, and the Hungarian cook before mentioned, who was to act in the capacity of general body servant. His Majesty selected two horses from the stud for his own use, leaving instructions that all the rest, together with the carriages, saddlery, liveries, &c., and any other surplus personal effects, should be immediately sold by auction, and every small debt owed by him be paid with the proceeds.

Numerous conjectures were naturally made as to the cause of this sudden step taken by His Majesty. It was in reality brought about by the cunning representations of Marquez, who persuaded His Majesty that if he showed the Mexicans that he had implicit confidence in them by leading them on an expedition, and that he did not rely solely upon his foreign troops, he would for ever attach them to his person, and that a

feeling of enthusiasm would rapidly spread through the country, bringing in thousands daily to flock to his standard. Marquez well knew that a romantic and imaginative nature like Maximilian's was sure to catch fire at such a prospect. He was playing a deep game for his own benefit, at the expense of his victim, as will shortly be seen by his future conduct.

CHAPTER XII.

Some two months previous to the events described in the last chapter, General Miramon had taken the field in the north, and his campaign had hitherto been a series of brilliant successes. On the 9th February, intelligence reached us that he had made a flying march with some 2,500 men from Quaretero, which he was then occupying, to Zacatecas, which latter place was occupied by 2,000 Liberals, and contained also Juarez and his so-called cabinet, Miramon's object being, of course, to capture them if possible, and as Juarez was the mainspring of the Liberal party, and alone kept them together, this would virtually have put an end to the contest. Miramon arrived before Zacatecas in the morning, where the Liberals, who were expecting every moment to be reinforced by Escobedo and Trevino, managed to make a tolerable resistance

until night, when the expected reinforcements not arriving, they beat a hasty retreat under cover of the darkness. Juarez and his cabinet had escaped in the morning from the opposite end of the town to that at which the Imperialists first made their appearance, and took the road to Durango, though all their papers and correspondence were captured.

The following day, however, was destined to bring the hitherto dashing and successful young General a reverse of fortune at last. Immediately he heard that the Liberal forces from San Luis were marching towards the place, he decided to meet, and if possible, surprise them. He did so at the Hacienda of San Jacinto, half way between Zacatecas and San Luis, where he met the division of Escobedo, with which he would, no doubt, have made short work, but for the arrival of a second division of the enemy, under Trevino, who had taken the Tresilio road, and attacked him in the rear, just as the troops of Escobedo were beginning to give way. This, of course, turned the fortune of the day. Miramon's forces now finding themselves surrounded,

attempted to cut their way through, which the General, with a portion of his cavalry, succeeded in doing, but the whole of the infantry were either shot down on the spot or taken prisoners; twenty-five pieces of artillery and all the baggage train (including 40,000 dollars in specie) fell into the hands of the enemy; 400 Imperialists were killed or wounded, and 1,500 taken prisoners, among whom was Joaquino Miramon (brother to the Miguel the General), who, with all the foreign prisoners, 150 in number, chiefly Frenchmen, was immediately shot by the butcher Escobedo. The General escaped by a miracle, and arrived next day at Aguas Calientes, accompanied by only ten officers. It was the news of this reverse, no doubt, that at last settled the determination of the Emperor to take the field.

General Mejia had meanwhile completely routed the celebrated guerilla chief Carabajal (before alluded to), killing, or wounding, nearly his whole force of two thousand men, and capturing their cannon and baggage.

Leaving the Emperor to continue his march to

the seat of war, I will return a little to the state of affairs in and around the capital. It was only too evident that we should shortly be in a complete state of siege. As I have before mentioned, the whole remaining garrison in the city was some seven thousand five hundred men, including foreigners—too few to make any successful sortie, and leave sufficient troops for the safety of the city, as in the surrounding districts the enemy were in complete possession.

Alvarez was at Cuernavacca with five thousand men; Pancho Velez, who so badly harassed us in the pass of Las Cruces, was at Toluca, into which he had marched, on our evacuating it, with two thousand men; Costillo Velasco was somewhere in the neighbourhood with a thousand more; and Porfirio Diaz between us and Puebla with six thousand, besides numerous irregular bands —all raising the Republican standard—making a total of over seventeen thousand men. Diaz's division were between the Rio Frio and Ayotla, which place has before been described as within a good day's march of Mexico. He sent a challenge on the 7th of February to Colonel Oronez,

who was on his way up from Puebla with a thousand Imperial troops, raised by conscription, saying, "People tell me you are not soldiers. I believe you are, and that you will fight; meet me three leagues from Mexico to-morrow." Notwithstanding this vain-glorious message and challenge to a parcel of raw recruits from the commander of a division of over six thousand veterans, he did not put in an appearance, and the Imperial reinforcement marched into the city unmolested. They were a motley-looking set, dressed in canvas blouses and blue trousers, with a red stripe; but their arms, which were Austrian rifles, with sword bayonts, were first-rate, and in good condition. They exhibited no appearance of discontent in consequence of their impressment; on the contrary, they seemed in excellent spirits, and marched sturdily along, with their wives and mothers trotting by their sides as unconcerned as themselves, which may easily be accounted for by the fact that the majority of them were being better fed and better clothed than they had ever been in their lives.

Communication with Vera Cruz was daily becoming more difficult; the Liberals one day, after cutting open the mail bags, notified the stage drivers that they would not be allowed to return—a thing unknown in previous revolutions, for in this country, where civil war has always been the order of the day, it has been customary to permit the stages to pass through the lines unmolested. Telegraph wires had also been cut on the lines, and that mode of communication was entirely suspended. News had arrived by special courier from Vera Cruz, that the French troops were fast embarking, as well as an immense number of private individuals—both foreigners, who, fearing the aspect of affairs, had wound up their business, and decided finally to quit the country, and Mexicans of note, who were committed to the Imperial cause, and feared punishment in case of the Liberals gaining the day. Vera Cruz was threatened by five thousand men, collecting at Tlacatalpam and Abamdo, under the Liberal Colonel Alvarez, and at Jalapa, under different officers. San Martin, a village a few miles west

of Puebla, was occupied by a portion of Porfirio Diaz's command, who were rapidly preparing to invest that city.

On the 13th February the following Imperial decree was issued, proclaiming unmistakably the Emperor's future line of action :—

"MAXIMILIAN, EMPEROR OF MEXICO.

"From a desire to be present at the operations of the army in the interior, and to obviate meantime delay in the despatch of the business of the Government, we decree—

"*Article* 1.—During our absence in the interior the ministers will, with the concurrence of the President of the Council of Ministers, despatch the business of their respective departments.

"*Article* 2.—The President of the Council of Ministers, alone or in council with his colleagues, as he may deem proper, shall despatch all business of gravity and importance.

"*Article* 3.—The Ministers, the Council of State, and all authorities and functionaries of the Empire, civil and military, shall execute the

orders of the President of the Council of Ministers.

"*Article* 4.—The business of the Government shall be despatched in our name.

"*Article* 5.—Neither laws nor decrees shall be issued or abrogated, save in cases of an urgent nature, and with the concurrence of the President of the Council of State, and, should the emergency permit, of the said Council. The laws and decrees shall be issued in our name, and shall be signed by the President of the Council of Ministers, and countersigned on his own responsibility by the Minister of the respective department.

"*Article* 6.—We reserve to ourselves the business of our house and Court, with all others expressed in our note of instructions.

"Our Ministers are charged with the execution of the provisions of this decree in so far as to each of them it appertains.

"TROFILO MARIN,

"Minister of the Interior.

"MAXIMILIAN.

"Given at Mexico, 12th Feb., 1867."

On the following day a despatch reached the Minister of War from General Marquez, with the intelligence that on the road to Cuatitlan, some ten leagues distant, a band of one thousand six hundred of the enemy attacked the column, and were repulsed with great loss, his Majesty personally leading the charge against them, in which he had several narrow escapes of his life. A sergeant who was receiving orders from him was shot dead by his side during the action. Further accounts showed that this mode of harassing was kept up by the Liberals along the whole line of march, but without risking a decisive action. News also arrived that Miramon, after his defeat at San Jacinto, had re-collected his scattered army, and returned with it to Queretero, to await the arrival of his Majesty. General Mendez, hitherto Commander-in-Chief, was also moving there from Morelia, and Mejia, with his division, was marching to the same place. A junction would thus be effected by the principal portion of the Imperial forces, of which the Emperor was about to take the command in person.

During the whole of this time we were kept

constantly on the alert in the city by the constant raids of bands of guerilla, of more or less magnitude, who often approached close to the gates.

My corps was constantly at Tacubya, already described, three miles distant, where we had daily skirmishes with Pancho Velez's troops, who had advanced from Toluca, and occupied Santa Fé, the village we passed the night in on the day of the fight of "Las Cruces."

The trains were only allowed to run as far as the station at the Imperial Palace of Chapultapec, which is nearly a mile nearer to Mexico than Tacubya, and unless we obtained reinforcements there was little chance of its continuing to run even there, as the enemy were daily increasing in numbers and extending their lines, while we had continually to contract ours.

One night after a very hard day's work in patrolling the different approaches to the city, I had turned in to bed in my comfortable quarters, at the Iturbide Hotel, and was congratulating myself on the prospect of a good night's rest, when just as I had settled myself quietly to sleep some one tapped at the door of my room.

"Who's there?"

"Orderly, señor, with a despatch from the General."

Very reluctantly I struck a light, and opened the door. On breaking the seal of the odious letter I read—

"The Gendarmeria will assemble immediately, and proceed with all haste to Tacubya, where the enemy, under Velez, have entered, and are pillaging the town; no further order for march is to be considered necessary. The commanding officer will proceed at his own discretion, and report results to these head-quarters,

"TABERA,

"General Commanding."

"Where is my servant?"

"Here, sir."

"My black horse directly."

"It is ready, sir; I thought there was something up when the orderly came with a letter for you, so I called up the other servants. Here are your things, sir; the saddle bags are packed,

your brandy flask filled, and I have brought you a cup of coffee to take before you start."

"All right; I shall be ready in five minutes. Here, orderly, take this to the adjutant, warn the other officers, and tell him to sound to horse at the quartel immediately."

This was the manner we prepared for the road, and sometimes for days, and even weeks, campaigning in Mexico.

A hasty adieu to my wife, and I was in the saddle, and in less than half-an-hour on the road to Tacubya with 300 as fine light cavalry at my heels as ever made a charge. Fifteen minutes' brisk trot brought us to the outskirts of the village, where I learnt that there were upwards of 900 of Velez's cavalry scattered about the town, making free with everybody's property, and that only one or two of their pickets were stationed on the different approaches from the capital. Riding with my informant a few hundred yards I distinctly saw one picket on the road by which we were approaching, and riding back I immediately ordered the leading squadron to charge, the result of which was that the whole of

the picket were either killed, wounded, or taken prisoners in less than five minutes without a single shot being fired, only the sabre and lasso being used; and having now gained the "point d'appui," two troops were despatched by the two remaining roads to take the other pickets in rear, and these, most of whom were dismounted at the time, shared the same fate. Meanwhile the alarm had been given in the town, and the pillagers were rapidly turning out and forming on the plaza; skirmishers had also been thrown out by them, and were commencing a sharp fire upon us from the tops of the houses. Having secured the prisoners with a guard, we dashed on towards the plaza, and not waiting to molest the skirmishers, who were only sent out for the purpose of delaying us, charged straight up the main street, and reached the plaza just in time to see the cavalry column of Velez at full gallop on the road to Santa Fé. A fearful carnage now ensued; the Liberal commander in his haste to escape had overlooked a second road running through some fields, which completely commanded that taken by his troops. Immediately perceiving this I sent a

squadron down it with orders to extend in skirmishing order and harass the enemy's flanks, while I with the remaining one charged them in the rear. The road soon became narrow, and a crush ensued from the difficulty of passing in front, while the enemy's rear was completely hemmed in by my men, who were making fresh charges on it every moment, and from the right flank on the hill side overhead a murderous fire was kept up by our other squadron.

We continued this until within a few hundred yards of Santa Fé, where the enemy's guns in position there opened upon us. I now called a halt, and collecting my troops retired, as two large columns of infantry were already in sight, coming to support the flying cavalry, and my force was too weak to risk any further engagement.

We passed more than four hundred dead as we returned, besides a number of wounded, whom we brought back with us, also over one hundred prisoners. A string of bullock carts, which had been impressed by the enemy from a neighbouring hacienda, for the purpose of carry-

ing off their booty, and in the confusion of their flight had been abandoned, was of invaluable service to us, as affording the means of carrying the wounded into the city.

My return was considerably hastened by the intelligence I gained on the road from the drivers of the bullock carts, that the Liberal General Berriozabal was already in the Cruces with two thousand men and six pieces of artillery, on his way to reinforce Velez, and had he arrived a few hours sooner I might not have got back so easily, as he had a considerable cavalry force. Diego was now at Tlalpam, only four leagues from the city, on the San Cosmé road, while one of Diaz's lieutenants was at Ayotla, in possession of the high road to Vera Cruz, and intercepting all correspondence. These hostile troops, fast closing in upon us, cut off our supplies to a great extent, the loss of which we were beginning to feel in the almost total absence of fruit and vegetables, and the great increase in the price of all articles of consumption.

About this time M. Adolphe Bazaine, nephew

to the Marshal, returned to the city, where he intended remaining, as he had some speculations there. He had parted with his uncle at Orizava, and as soon as he had cleared the rear guard of the French army, he was furnished with an escort by Porfirio Diaz, until within sight of the Imperial piquets round Mexico.

A portion of the Marshal's baggage was cut off by a party of Liberal troops near Paso del Macho, and twenty-two thousand gold ounces were carried off with it, but on his sending an account of the proceeding to Porfirio Diaz the whole was returned on the following day.

On the 12th of March we received information that Diaz had commenced a close siege of Puebla, with nine thousand men, the city being defended by some three thousand Mexican troops.

It was evident that though the majority of the inhabitants of the capital were loyal, still a great number of disaffected existed, and our duty as Gendarmeria was very arduous; the streets, especially in the suburbs, had to be patrolled night and day; and in addition to this, the

number of suspected persons we had to arrest was immense. The siege might safely be said to have commenced; the divisions of the enemy before enumerated had rapidly closed in upon us, including those of Porfirio Diaz, who, having over twelve thousand men in his corps, devoted half of them to operate against Puebla, and the remainder against the capital. Our force, a considerable portion of which was composed of new Mexican levies, was not sufficiently strong to risk a battle outside, and our raids were principally confined to cavalry foraging parties, chiefly to obtain feed for the horses.

It may not be uninteresting to my readers to know the actual strength of the contending parties at this time, and the great odds to which we were subjected.

IMPERIAL FORCES.

Army under the personal command of the Emperor, including the divisions of Mendez, Mejia, Miramon, and Marquez	10,700
Troops occupying Mexico, Puebla, Vera Cruz, and the state of Ucatan	11,000
	21,700

LIBERALS.

General Esobedo	6,000
First contingent of Durango, San Louis, and Zacatecas.	4,000
Antonio Carabajal (after his defeat)	700
Contingent of Guanajuato.	4,000
Army of the Centre	8,200
Army of the West	8,000
Army of the South	5,000
Army of the East	15,000
Leiva and Altamarino	2,200
Guerillas in different parts	10,000
Garrisons in reconquered or evacuated places	6,600
Total	69,700

All the different commands hitherto mentioned were included in the above departments. It must be borne in mind that none of them existed until the French evacuation was finally decided upon; that in fact there was neither a Republican army nor Government, and that the whole organization, incredible as it may appear, was the work of three short months. It is true Juarez had all along kept a few followers together, which he styled the National Government and army, but it is equally indisputable that he, for a long time, quitted Mexican territory, and that no armed force, larger than a band of robbers, was anywhere to be seen. This mushroom army and Government had thus, in an incredibly short space of time, assumed a most formidable aspect,

and my readers will probably wonder how it was effected. Let them ask the United States where Juarez was supplied, with not only money but materials of war of many kinds, to say nothing of the enlistment of American citizens in American territory to recruit the Liberal army in the neighbourhood of the Rio Grande. Money was meantime growing daily more scarce in the Imperial treasury, and had it not been for the contributions of private as well as political friends of the Emperor, the troops would have been without pay.

The house of Baron and Forbes, who own the factory I have described at Tepic, but whose chief house is in the capital, nobly responded to the call made upon them by contributing 100,000 dollars, and many others came forward in the same manner. No prestamos, or forced loans, had as yet been made, though, after paying up arrears of pay to the troops in garrison, only 100,000 dollars could be remitted to the Emperor at Queretero. To find resources in a country where forty thousand Frenchmen had been maintained for the last four years, would have puzzled

a more clever financier than the Imperial Mexican minister. His embarrassments were still further increased by the utter impossibility of receiving any remittances from the Custom-houses at Vera Cruz and Tampico, which ports had been reckoned upon for a supply of funds as soon as their Customhouses should have been returned by the French to the Mexican authorities, but Porfirio Diaz had not only entirely cut off this source of revenue, but had detained every waggon proceeding to the capital with goods which would have paid internal duties there; thus the receipts were still more lessened, as well as the keeping of all foreign goods out of the capital, causing great inconvenience to everyone ; every day still further showed the folly in abandoning the towns and districts on the high road to Vera Cruz, and carrying the war in to the northern and central portions of the country. Had this error not been committed, the principal revenues of the empire would always have been available; neither Mexico, Puebla, nor Vera Cruz could ever have been taken, and safe communication would always have been open with Europe and the outer world.

On the 3rd of April, intelligence reached us of the fall of Puebla, which had been taken by Diaz, who had again concentrated the whole of his division there for the final attack. After a desperate resistance from the raw levies with which it was garrisoned, Diaz brought an enormous park of American artillery to bear upon the town, and when a good breach had been effected, carried it at the point of the bayonet, by pouring in overwhelming numbers. Five hundred men belonging to one regiment had taken up a position on the Plaza, and when the conquering masses poured into the city they still remained firm, and were eventually actually mowed down by a battery of artillery Diaz brought to bear upon them at close quarters. Nor did they cease fighting desperately till the last man among them was killed.

Immediately after the capture of the place, Diaz shot six general officers, and sixty-one of other grades, as a retaliation, he stated, for the Imperial decree of the 3rd of October, 1865. Three days later, after leaving a garrison in Puebla, he moved his head quarters to Guadaloupe, three leagues from Mexico, and commenced the trans-

port of the whole of his troops and heavy artillery train thither, for which purpose he made use of the Imperial Mexican railroad, which had been completed to Apisaco, half-way between the two cities, but previous to accomplishing this, one of the most disastrous defeats our cause sustained during the war was effected by him, which I will hereafter describe.

CHAPTER XIII.

I MUST now return to the Emperor, and his march to Queretero, but as I was myself in the capital at the time, I have obtained my information from the best authenticated sources, and especially am indebted to the correspondent of the "New York Herald" for several facts connected with the operations at and around Queretero, the news of which the Mexican papers were unable to obtain, and which, indeed, never reached the capital; and being shut up there, I had no means of obtaining intelligence at the time. The skirmish at Cuatitlan the previous day has already been described; at Calpaḷalpam, three leagues beyond the village of San Francisco, the same place where Ortéga defeated Miramon and Marquez, in 1853, the Imperial troops were attacked by a large force of cavalry under General Cosea. The road at this point

passes between two steep hills, forming a defile easily guarded. The Liberals, however, occupied the left side only, and on the approach of the Imperial column opened a brisk fire of musketry. After a short skirmish, the Imperial cavalry and skirmishers advanced, and took possession of the hill on the right. The Liberals then massed on the left, and Marquez sent out skirmishers to feel their position, the Emperor himself accompanying them, exposing himself fearlessly in the thickest of the fire. Several of his staff endeavoured to draw him back, but his Hapsburg blood was roused;—he replied "No, I am a soldier now, and must go with my own men." Meanwhile, the unhappy diligence, which had originally started from Queretero, but had been compelled to return by Marquez to prevent news being carried back to the enemy, attracted the attention of the opposite party, who, apparently, imagined that the Emperor was there, and fired a volley of at least a hundred and fifty rifles at it; some of the mules being wounded plunged, and upset the coach, but no greater damage ensued to the passengers, though one man some distance off was

killed, and four wounded by the discharge. It appeared afterwards that the Liberals had rifles, but only round, instead of concave, ball, which may account a little for this extraordinary bad marksmanship. No other casualties occurred, and the Liberals soon after beat a retreat: they lost four or five killed, and two prisoners, which latter Marquez wished at once to shoot, but the Emperor would not hear of it. "Very good, your Majesty," replied the old tiger, and turning to his adjutant told him, with a meaning look, to put them with the other prisoners. They were accordingly taken to the rear, and, strange to say, "were missing" shortly afterward. Marquez said they must have escaped, but the general remark was "*quien sabe*" (who knows). The Emperor, also, had to interfere, to save the lives of two passengers in the diligence from Queretero, who were provided with passes from Eseobedo. The bloodthirsty old General would have shot them as spies had he not been overruled by Imperial authority. These repeated little differences seemed to interfere very much in the cordiality between the Emperor and his chief of staff—

perhaps he was beginning to fathom the latter's character. On the 17th February the column arrived at San Juan del Rio, when His Majesty issued the following order of the day :—

"The Emperor to the Mexican Army.

"To-day places me in the front, and I take command of our army, which little more than two months have sufficed to call together and organise. This is the day I have long and ardently desired to see. Obstacles have hindered me against my will.

"To-day, free from all compromises, I can follow simply my sentiments of good and loyal patriotism. Our duty as loyal citizens commands us to fight for the two principles most sacred to the country ; for her independence, which is menaced by men, who, from motives of egotism, seek to barter away her national territory; and for internal peace, which we see violated every day in a manner most cruel to our pacific compatriots. Our actions being free from all influence, from all external pressure, we shall defend and maintain the honour of our glorious national banner.

"I hope the Generals will give to their officers, and they to their brave troops, a worthy example of the most strict obedience, and the most rigid discipline, such as is due from an army which realizes the national dignity. Of valour and pride there is no necessity to speak, for they are the birthright of every Mexican.

"I nominate the valiant General Marquez my chief of staff, and divide the army into three corps. The command of the first I give to the brave General Miramon; the second corps I leave in the hands of its present chief, Marquez; and the command of the third I bestow upon the intrepid General Mejia. I hope one day or other to include General Mendez, with his faithful and long-suffering troops, in the second corps. The patriotic General Vidaurri accompanies me to organise his troops, and open the campaign of the north. Our trust is in God, who protects, and will protect, Mexico; and we will fight bravely and tenaciously with our sacred invocation—'Viva la Indépendencia.'

"MAXIMILIAN.

"San Juan del Rio, Feb. 17th, 1867."

On the 22nd of February the little Imperial army arrived at the gates of Queretero, and at eleven o'clock his Majesty made his public entrance on horseback, accompanied by his escort and staff. Great preparations had been made to give him a hearty reception. The Indian population predominates there, and they have always been friendly to the Empire.

There is a legend among these people which has been handed down to posterity, and which I gathered from a Mexican antiquary of great learning. Since the period when the tribe called the Toltecs ruled the land, which was even before the time of the Aztecs, their favourite god was Quetzal, God of the Air. Under his auspices agriculture and mechanical arts had much progressed, but he was the greatest enemy to war, and when it was at length proposed he refused to hear. This aroused the anger of a more powerful deity, and he was obliged to fly to the coast, where he entered a small boat, and promising to return some day and bring everlasting peace and plenty with him, he sailed off into the east, whence the sun came,

leaving thousands of inconsolable worshippers and followers watching his frail barque from the seashore until it became finally lost to sight. He is described as a large, fair man, with a long beard, and the Indians, who had always been longing for his return, were at length persuaded that he had come in the person of Maximilian, whose appearance exactly coincided with the description of their long lost god. The Emperor's extremely handsome personal and imposing appearance went far to confirm this belief, and hence the great attachment of nearly the whole Indian race to his cause.

The windows were festooned with ribbons and flowers, triumphal arches erected, and church bells rang their merriest peals. At eleven a.m., the approach of the Imperial party was heralded by a shower of rockets and crackers from the look out on the Cathedral tower, and soon afterwards his Majesty rode through the Plaza, amidst the acclamations of the people, to the quarters prepared for him at the "Lonja," or Merchants' Club House, the crowd closing round him as he proceeded, the

great struggle appearing to be to get close enough to touch him. Such honest, heartfelt enthusiasm as was then displayed was alone sufficient to impress upon a monarch that he was the people's choice, and that he was carrying out the wishes of the nation by fighting to maintain his position. In the afternoon a grand review of all the troops, numbering some twelve thousand, took place. The Emperor minutely inspected each regiment, and had some words of kindness and encouragement for all.

A long time was now unfortunately wasted without any active steps being taken, in what was termed preparation for the coming campaign, though if ever the Imperial army was in a state to take the field it was then. All the principal Imperial generals, with their respective commands, were concentrated in Queretero, including Marquez, Miramon, Mejia, and Costilio, making, as I have already stated, a total of upwards of twelve thousand men, including a cavalry force of over two thousand, the finest body of that branch of the service ever collected together in Mexico, and three months' pay was in the chest.

It was evident that the open field should have been their place, and not the walls of Queretero, notwithstanding the great natural strength of that fortress.

A slight glance at the map of Mexico and the dispositions of the Liberal armies, still more strengthens the opinion that this should have been the course of action pursued. Eseobedo, Trevino, and all the Liberal forces were marching southward to unite at a place called San Miguel, within about fourteen leagues of Queretero; Aranda, and Garera de la Cadena, were marching from Aguas Calientes rapidly towards the same point, thus with 900 men, who had left Zacatecas a few days since, the Liberal army when united would be between 10,000 and 12,000 men, well armed (thanks to the Yankees), and many of them flushed with their recent victory over Miramon at San Jacinto. Corona was also rapidly closing on Queretero from the south-west, which would still further increase the Liberal forces collecting round that city to upwards of 18,000 men. There was, however, still ample time had decisive steps been at once taken to

defeat all these different forces in detail before a junction could have been effected; and with the fine troops and very superior cavalry composing the Imperial army this might have been undertaken with every prospect of success. In any instance where the Imperial troops had gained a victory their cavalry and light horse artillery would in all probability have made it a disastrous rout; the Liberals would have been obliged to retreat again into Northern Mexico, if not utterly cut up and dispersed, and a very lengthened period must have elapsed before the Emperor could again have been attacked in the naturally strong position formed by the whole of the great central plateau around the capital, embracing the populous cities of Guanajuato, San Luis, Guadalajara, Puebla, Leon, and many more, which, with their rich and fertile surroundings, would have remained in his power, while his forces would soon have been trebled as a natural consequence in Mexico of success, enabling him to hold firmly his reconquered territory. The little armies of Alvarez, Carabajal, and a dozen others in the south would of course have been

subsequently easily cut off, captured, and dispersed, and the Empire firmly established for ever. These were poor Miramon's views, which he advocated at many a stormy council in Queretero; but unfortunately there were too many generals all holding equal rank, the cunning old Marquez only working to fill his pockets at the expense of all; the cautious Indian chief Mejia, and the jealous Ohoran, and Castilio, all worked to thwart the measures proposed by this dashing and ambitious young general, who had really more knowledge of the science of war in his little finger than the whole of them put together. The Emperor, unfortunately yielded to the majority, the golden opportunity was let slip, and a "masterly inactivity" for some time prevailed. The position of the town was certainly each day strengthened; but the enemy were fast concentrating and closing in upon it.

On the 24th of February Eseobedo's lines were within seven leagues of Queretero, and the Emperor, at the head of a large force, sallied out with the intention of giving him battle; but failing in drawing him from his position, returned

on the following day. During this period Miramon had made a sortie with about 2,000 men to relieve Mendez, who was besieged in Morelia by Corona and Regules, and 900 men; he succeeded in doing so, bringing him and his division to reinforce the army in Queretero.

Supplies in the latter city had become very difficult to be obtained, as all the roads were now cut off by the Liberals; the merchants had been ordered to give up to the public stores all the rice, beans, coffee, sugar, and salt, and the haciendados of the neighbourhood had a contribution laid on them of twelve beeves daily, and all the last year's grain. It was clear that in a very short time the city would be in a complete state of siege, and unless a decisive action took place, with every prospect of being starved out.

Reconnoitering parties were frequently sent out, but alas, numbers of them invariably deserted to the enemy, so great was their dread of being shut up and starved in the city. On the 27th Corona effected a junction with Escobedo, and the close siege of Queretero may be said to have then commenced.

It is a curious coincidence that the names of the chiefs of the Imperial party shut up in Queretero should all have commenced with the same letter, Maximilian, Miramon, Marquez, Mejia, and Mendez. A despatch, intercepted from the Liberal General Eseobedo to Juarez, dated before Queretero, 7th February, stated that he did not intend attacking the place, notwithstanding his greatly superior numbers, as he felt confident that it was only a work of a few weeks, if not days, to starve the Imperialists out of it.

On the 14th March, Mendez, with 500 men, made a sally to favour the entry into the garrison of an ammunition train coming from the Capital. He was attacked at a short distance from the City, where both parties were immediately reinforced. The Imperialists sent out a division, and to meet this, Corona moved up with his whole command, which was repulsed with great loss, and the train brought safely in. While this was going on, Mejia moved out by another gate, to prevent Trevino effecting a

junction with Corona, which he not only succeeded in doing, but attacked Trevino in position, and routed him completely; in fact, the whole Liberal army were compelled to retire somewhat from their position, and partially raise the siege; but, nevertheless, no decisive steps were taken to follow up this success, notwithstanding that typhus had set in in Queretero with great fury, thus adding terribly to the horrors of war and famine.

Great outcries were at the same time made in the Liberal army of the inefficiency of their commander-in-chief, Eseobedo, who, though he also was short of supplies, and in an equally starving condition with the besieged, still refused to risk an attack. He at this time received authority from Juarez to apply to Porfirio Diaz for reinforcements to the amount of 5,000 men, which he immediately took advantage of.

The only outposts now left to the besieged were the neighbouring hills of La Cruz and La Campana, the heights of San Gregorio having been for some time evacuated.

On the 19th, Marquez, at the head of 500 cavalry, and accompanied by Ohoran, made a dash out of the place, entirely frustrating all the attempts of the enemy to stop him, and took the road to the Capital. He was armed with full powers from the Emperor, who had appointed him Lieutenant-General of the Empire, by the following decree, his mission being to raise a loan and four or five thousand men in the capital, and return immediately with them to the relief of Queretero :—

"For the discharge of the extraordinary and important mission which we have entrusted to General Leonardo Marquez, we name him our Lieutenant-General, invested with full powers, according to the verbal orders which he has received from us.

"Given at Queretero, the 19th March, 1867.

"MAXIMILIAN."

How far he deserved this confidence and the uses he made of it, will be seen hereafter. It was now determined to await the reinforcements which Marquez promised to return with in less

than twenty days, and with which he was to assail the besieging army in the rear, and thus favour a general attack from the garrison on the whole Liberal position.

The siege continued without interruption till the 2nd of May, during which time fights of more or less importance took place almost daily, the attacking parties being invariably the Imperialists, who made most spirited sorties, not only for the purpose of annoying the enemy, but to cover the approach of ammunition trains, provisions, &c., which occasionally arrived. The Liberals subsequently admitted that up to this date they had been worsted in every engagement that had taken place. The condition meanwhile of the besieged was most deplorable; no corn or flour of any kind to be had. Horse and mule flesh, with occasionally a little rice, were the only descriptions of food at all obtainable; the horses almost entirely without forage, and the small supply of water left after the cutting off of the aqueducts by the enemy, was of the very worst description. The city was bombarded night and morning, and the skirmishers on both

sides kept up a continual fire on one another as long as daylight lasted.

The poor inhabitants suffered very severely from sickness, produced by starvation, the total absence of any description of fruit or vegetable, as well as from the enemy's fire. One day a woman, who was looking out of a window, had her head taken off by a round shot, and in the same street a very pretty little girl of eleven years old was killed by a bullet. Extensive feint attacks were frequently made, in each of which fifty or sixty lives were lost simply to get a letter through the Liberal lines. On the 11th of April Prince Salm Salm, with five hundred men, attacked an hacienda strongly fortified, near the garita of Mexico, his sole object being to get a letter through. He had five couriers with him, completely disguised, each with his despatch rolled up into the smallest compass, and enclosed in sealing wax, so that it could be swallowed if necessary. Two succeeded in getting through, but nothing was ever heard of them after. Again on the 17th, under cover of a feigned attack, a party of four officers and seventy cavalry cut their

way through with despatches for Mexico. Five thousand dollars were always waiting as a reward for the first successful courier who returned with an answer to his dispatch, but none came. One eager aspirant for the prize was one morning discovered hanging just outside the lines, with a large placard on his heart, on which was written—

"FIFTH COURIER FROM MARQUEZ."

During this dreadful period the Emperor astonished everybody. He was the life and soul of the whole garrison. But for him the position would have been surrendered over and over again. Always cheerful and hopeful, brave to rashness, and patient under the most adverse circumstances, he excited the admiration of all. Few of his officers exposed their lives so freely, none fared more poorly, or lodged more meanly. It was seldom that any greater delicacy than horseflesh or rice appeared on his table, while his staff, thanks to occasional foraging parties, frequently obtained chicken, turkey, and even wine. An officer, entering his room one morning, found him sitting patiently with his breakfast before

him, and neither plates to put it upon nor knives or forks to eat it with. He frequently arose in the middle of the night, and wholly unattended, walked round the lines and challenged every piquet. Over and over again his generals urged him to take the cavalry and force his way through the enemy's lines to Mexico, as the only chance of securing his personal safety, leaving to them the further defence of the city, but he always flatly refused. The last time he said—

"I do not deceive myself; I know if they catch me they will shoot me, but while I can fight I will not run away."

Maximilian's entire income at this time, which he allowed himself out of the Treasury, was fifty dollars per day. Out of this he paid his doctor, his secretary, his orderlies, and kept his two horses, leaving for his personal expenses after these outlays were paid, eleven dollars, and he never passed a beggar or wounded soldier in the street without giving him alms.

On one occasion, when a number of prisoners were brought in who had deserted from the Imperial army, carrying valuable information to the

enemy, and all his generals were clamouring to have them shot, he refused to permit it, saying—

"I will have no executions, even though I know the men to be guilty. If things go well here, good; if badly, I shall have nothing on my conscience."

On the occasion of the 10th of April, the third anniversary of his acceptance of the crown of Mexico, he replied to a congratulatory address of the citizens as follows:—

"I am surrounded by every species of peril, and by the most powerful obstacles; yet I receive you with the greater pleasure, as the faithful representatives of the moral and honest part of the nation, and of our valiant and long suffering army, on this day, on which I enter on the fourth year of my reign. Three years of arduous labour, of great difficulties have passed. Already one fruit has resulted from this arduous period, in that I am able to demonstrate to my fellow citizens the consistency, the honesty, and the loyalty of the intentions of my Government. The day of the acceptation of my actual position pressed upon me spontaneously in my distant

paternal shores, I vowed to consecrate myself to the defence of the integrity and independence of my new country, and of what, in my opinion, was for her benefit. For three years subsequently I have had to struggle painfully against influences hurtful to our country; but, powerful and strong, struggled with, and triumphed over, at last, so that not one blot remains upon our glorious national flag. I have been able to combat with constancy and good faith, because I based the strength of my rights, and the foundation of my legality, by the innumerable acts which, transmitted to Miramar by worthy sons of the nation, affirm and re-affirm in these historical documents of the great majority of the Mexicans my mission as their chief. At the moment of the evacuation of our territory by the foreigners, when one of my most sacred tasks—that of watching over the integrity of our country, and protecting her threatened independence—was completed, I believed that my further remaining at the head of the nation would be an obstacle. I have called since, in consequence of this doubt, a legal council, composed by my care of men of all

parties, and of the most pronounced political colours, to place in their hands and on their responsibility of a free and frank decision on this question, so delicate and important for my conscience. The opinion of the Council being prompt, and almost unanimous, that it would be a grave shortcoming on my part to abandon in the actual moment of crisis the post to which the nation had called me, I consequently consented to dedicate myself a second time to the arduous task, which obstacles innumerable render more difficult every day; but, at the same time, yielding to my most cherished and innermost impulses before leaving Orizava to return to the capital, I convoked the nation to a free and constitutional congress, intending to submit with readiness to the final decision of my fellow-citizens, and proposing to lay before them, also, all the acts, documents, and accounts of my Government, which, with a clean conscience, I could submit to their judgment and to that of the entire world. You, sirs, know why that congress was never freely and fully organized according to my intentions—because our antagonists were not, like us, willing to submit to the

national will. The truth is, that acts already become historical rendered it difficult for them to press for judgment before a free and impartial congress. Our duties and our task are now, in consequence of this, more clear. We have to defend our national independence, as well as our liberty, and to restore to the nation that free action and dignity which have so long been prostrated under the absolute terrorism exerted by the cohorts of social revolution. On the 16th September, 1865, I said to you that every drop of my blood is now Mexican ; and if God should permit new perils to menace our dear country, you should see me fight in your ranks for her independence and her integrity. Those who surround me in the difficulties and perils of to-day in Queretero see that I have fulfilled my promise. The following year, on the same day of memorable record, I said ' That without blood, without pain, no human triumph, no political reformation, no lasting progress, had ever been accomplished; adding, also, that I was still firm in the struggle which the vote of the nation had called me to carry on, and, notwithstanding all the diffi-

culties, I would not falter in my duties, since it was not in the moment of danger that a true Hapsburg would abandon his post.' And here I am, struggling cheerfully by your side. Let us continue to advance with determination on the road of our rights, and God will recompense our efforts, giving us as our reward the peace and liberty of our country. Let our rallying cry always, and on all occasions, be the immaculate motto—' Viva la Indépendencia.'

" April 10th, 1867."

On the 27th April, and also on the 2nd May, general attacks were made on the whole Liberal position ; on the former occasion it was thought at one time that a complete rout of the enemy would take place, as their whole line ran, several infantry regiments making straight for the mountains, from which they had to be subsequently recaught with the lazo by their own cavalry, but the little Imperial army was too weak to follow up the advantage. After the first panic, fresh troops were brought up, others rallied, and through a blunder of Miramon's a road was left unguarded, by which Escobedo brought up five

hundred reserve troops, and turned the Imperial position, compelling them to retire within their entrenchments, not, however, before the Liberal camp had been completely plundered by the citizens of Queretero.

The 14th of May at length arrived; the situation was thoroughly desperate, and the crisis had come. It was the sixty-seventh day of the siege, and the fifty-second since Marquez had started for Mexico to bring reinforcements and money, and no tidings of any description had been received from him, though from a letter sent by Maximilian to Mexico some days since, which I will mention hereafter, it was evident he had heard from other sources of the conduct of the Lieutenant-General in the capital. It was clear the garrison could not hold out three days longer. There was absolutely no forage of any description left for the horses, and not more than sufficient food for one good meal for all hands; even horse and mule flesh was exhausted, no animals being left but the chargers of the cavalry and officers. A council of war was held, and the final resolve taken. It was as follows:—That

the whole army move out at midnight and cut their way through the Liberal lines. Surrender was out of the question, after the news received from Puebla of the butchery of captured officers by Diaz. All the male citizens between the ages of fifteen and fifty, were called out and armed, to hold the lines while the retreat was being effected, though not much confidence existed as to their proving of any material assistance. General Mejia, who had formerly defended the city against very great odds, was entrusted with the direction of this part of the programme. The scheme was put into execution. If the Emperor and his little army succeeded in cutting their way through the Liberal lines they were to take at once to the mountains and effect a junction with Alvera, an Imperial general, supposed to be hovering about in the neighbourhood with some three thousand armed Indians.

At eleven p.m. the whole army was under arms, artillery moved up, and everything ready for the sortie. The night was especially favourable for the purpose, being dark and stormy, with only occasional glimpses of moonlight.

Curiously enough on this very evening, as subsequently transpired, Eseobedo, pressed by Juarez to bring the siege to a close, and continually taunted by his second in command, Corona, for his want of energy, had given orders for a general attack on the hill of La Cruz in the morning.

At half-past eleven the Emperor rode down the line of troops, accompanied by his generals and staff, and riding side by side with his old friend and schoolfellow, Prince Salm Salm, who now acted as his Chief of Staff. Just as His Majesty had reached the head of the column, five deserters from the Liberal army were brought in by the advanced picquet, who, on being questioned why they wished to be shut up in a besieged city, stated that Juarez himself was closely besieged in the city of San Luis by Gonzales Ortega, and had sent orders to Eseobedo to raise the siege of Queretero and come to his assistance.

The men's story seemed true. They, of course, stated their reasons for deserting being to obtain a reward for their valuable information, and their willingness to abide by the truth of their asser-

tions. A hasty council of his generals was called by the Emperor, and it was decided to wait two days longer, and see if the besieging army took their departure, as, supposing they did so, it would, of course, be very provoking to have left them Queretero to take possession of before starting. The order of attack was accordingly countermanded, and the troops returned to their quarters, very much disappointed at the delay.

Poor Maximilian! poor Miramon! poor Mejia! how different might have been your fates had you not listened to the cleverly told tale you then heard; the fate of the Empire and of yourselves was decided by that lamentable delay.

CHAPTER XIV.

MEANWHILE the traitor was at his base work, and for forty-five thousand dollars had agreed to deliver into the hands of his enemies his Imperial master and benefactor; the man whose hand had loaded him with gifts, and by whose friendship and kindness he had been raised from obscurity to opulence and distinction. Colonel Miguel Lopez had, at an early date of the Emperor's reign, attracted his master's attention by his fine handsome face and noble bearing, as well as by several acts of daring which he had achieved, and not long afterwards was appointed by his Majesty colonel of the Regiment of the Empress, the first of the splendid body of cavalry which Maximilian had taken such pains to organize. He rendered himself very unpopular to the officers, many of whom were foreigners, from Austrian regiments, by his overbearing conduct, but still continued to

preserve the Emperor's favour. He was poor, and until this had hardly any prospects. The marks of Imperial favour bestowed upon him were endless. Gifts of money, estates, &c., were lavished upon the Imperial favourite, and he enjoyed, not only the confidence but the sincere friendship of his Majesty, who, on several occasions, honoured him by entrusting him with the command of escorts to himself and her Majesty the Empress. In addition to these marks of favour, the Emperor had graciously condescended to stand godfather to one of his children. On the death of Col. de la Madrid, who was killed at Cuernavaca, he was appointed Commander of the Guardia Imperial, a body of foreigners, organized solely for the Emperor's personal protection; and latterly he had been invested with the important command of the Convent of La Cruz, the Key of Queretero. He was uncle of the wife of Marshal Bazaine, and had been decorated by the Marshal with the Legion of Honour. Yet this was the man, who, for the paltry sum of 45,000 dollars, sold his benefactor to certain death. At the moment when Eseobedo was giving his orders for

the attack on the following day, he received a note from Lopez, offering, for the above-named sum, to deliver up the Cruz to him. The offer was, of course, promptly accepted by the cowardly ex-muleteer (which was Escobedo's occupation in the earlier part of his life), and, under cover of the darkness, Escobedo and Corona moved up their forces right under the walls of La Cruz, Lopez, at a given signal, ordering his troops to lay down their arms, marched them out at one gate, where they immediately found themselves prisoners, while the Liberals marched in at the other, and took their places. Thus the Cruz remained all night garrisoned by Liberal troops, while Maximilian and his generals were sleeping quietly within.

It is almost needless to state that the five supposed deserters were simply a part and parcel of the plot. With the first dawn of day, the Emperor, always an early riser, was one of the first to find out that something was wrong. Hastily waking Prince Salm Salm, who shared his apartment, he exclaimed "Come along quickly," and made for the door, where he was

met by a guard of Liberal soldiers, commanded by Colonel Rincon Gallardo. As he passed out, Lopez, who was in waiting, exclaimed "That is he, take him." Rincon, who was a brave, and evidently kind-hearted soldier, was thoroughly disgusted with the part he was playing in this disgraceful affair, and, prompted by a sudden impulse of generosity, he went up to Maximilian, and said, "You are a citizen; you are no soldier. We don't want you. Go." At the same time pushing the bewildered Emperor out of the convent. A few minutes brought him and Salm Salm to the Sierra de la Compana, where he was met by Mejia, Castillo, and several of his Austrian officers and cavalry, as well as many other superior officers, who had managed to cut their way through the Liberal guards. It was quickly evident, however, that resistance or escape was equally hopeless. Four battalions of infantry, and nearly the whole of the Liberal cavalry surrounded the hill, and formed a complete wall, to penetrate which, with the handful of men present, was hopeless. A flag of truce was accordingly sent down, and the Emperor and officers with

him, surrendered unconditionally to General Corona, his Majesty remarking at the time—

"I surrender you my sword; had it not been for the basest treachery, to-morrow's sun would have seen yours in my hands."

He also stated that he had three requests to make; first, that he might not be insulted, but treated as a prisoner of war; second, that if there was any shooting to take place he might be the first; and, thirdly, that when shot his body might not be unnecessarily mutilated.

The officers with the Emperor were at once marched down and lodged in the convent of La Cruz, and the foreign hussars brought down by detachments and disarmed. One Imperial officer, Colonel Campas, alone made a desperate effort to escape. Mounted on a magnificent horse, a revolver in each hand, and 4,000 dollars in his belt, he dashed down the mountain side and tried to break through the Liberal cavalry, and it seemed for a moment as if he would have succeeded. He shot a Liberal major dead, and wounded several men who tried to stop him, but was finally wounded, and captured, and imme-

diately shot. Miramon also had made a desperate attempt to cut his way through in another part of the city, accompanied by a few troopers; but was also wounded and captured.

Poor Mendez's fate was soon sealed. Eseobedo had issued an order that all officers who did not surrender within twenty-four hours should be immediately shot when taken. Mendez failed to do so, and was discovered two days afterwards hidden under the floor of a house. Though severely wounded he was at once marched down to the plazza, and shot. The first volley did not kill him, and he raised his hand and pointed to his head, when the corporal of the party, understanding his wishes, placed the muzzle of his piece to it, and blew out his brains.

He was like Mejia, an Indian by descent. He died like a brave soldier.

In two or three days the Emperor and his officers were removed from the Cruz to the convent of Santa Terista, a change infinitely for the worse. The cells they occupied had no ventilation, and were alternately scorchingly hot by day and perishingly cold by night. Even Maximilian had

nothing but the floor to sleep upon, and the food supplied was of the commonest quality, and very scantity in quantity. The Emperor was suffering from acute dysentery, and it seemed probable, if this treatment long continued, that the executioner would be spared his work, and the unfortunate prince's earthly troubles be soon ended.

Just at this time the Princess Salm Salm arrived in Queretero. This noble young lady, who is an American by birth, has by her wonderful courage and persevering energy in the Imperial cause created for herself a bright page in modern history, and her startling adventures and hair-breadth escapes make her truly a heroine of romance. It was she that went out of the city of Mexico with a flag of truce to Porfirio Diaz to endeavour to arrange terms for the lives of the Emperor, and those committed to his cause, as an equivalent for a capitulation of the city, in doing which she was twice fired upon. Whilst on this mission Diaz detained her as a prisoner for several days at Guadaloupe for the sole offence of having distributed alms to some Austrian wounded prisoners confined in the Castle of Chapultapec.

On releasing her he gave her a passport with the express understanding that she should at once leave the country. Instead of doing this she set out quite unattended, except by a young Mexican maid, for San Luis Potosi, in a common country waggon, where, after innumerable adventures with robbers, she at length arrived, and petitioned Juarez for an interview.

Repeatedly refused, and almost driven from the door, she still persevered, and at length gained her point. Her object was, of course, to obtain a promise that her husband's and the Emperor's lives should be spared. In this, however, though she of course left no stone unturned, she failed. All Juarez would say was that the prisoners would have a fair trial, but he could not interfere with the proceedings. He, however, granted her an order to see the Emperor and her husband. Having gained thus much, she started for Queretero on horseback, arriving before the courier who brought orders to Escobedo that Maximilian, Miramon, and Mejia were to be tried by a secret court-martial. Through her exertions with Escobedo the prisoners were re-

moved to the convent of La Capuchina, where they had tolerable accommodation, and their friends were permitted to send them clothes, bedding, provisions, and wines, &c. The foreign soldiers and officers of inferior grades were confined in different parts of the city, while the whole of the Mexicans from the rank of sergeant downwards were at once drafted into the Liberal army. A painful meeting, a night spent with her husband and his Imperial fellow prisoner in anxious discussion, and this indefatigable young wife again started express for San Luis with a letter from the Emperor to Juarez, asking to be allowed three weeks' delay to enable him to send for the Prussian minister and two celebrated advocates from the capital to undertake his defence. After a stormy debate in Juarez's council this was at length granted, and the princess started the same evening, and the following day saw her again at Queretero, bearing a letter from Juarez addressed to the "Titulado Emperadore," stating that his request would be granted. Expresses were permitted to be sent off to Mexico city, and in a few days the Prussian, English,

and in fact all the European ministers or Chargés d'Affaires arrived in Queretero as well as the two advocates already mentioned, who immediately took steps to prepare His Majesty's defence. Meanwhile, the court-martial, composed of a colonel and three captains, was ordered to assemble in the principal theatre of Queretero for the trial of Maximilian of Hapsburg, Miguel Miramon, and Tomas Mejia.

What the charges brought against them were has never clearly transpired to the world. The Judge-Advocate had no less than fourteen framed against the Emperor, and visited him from day to day to read a fresh one, and to know what his plea was, but the whole were such rambling nonsense, mixed up not only with improbabilities but impossibilities that it was a hopeless case to make head or tail of them.

The Emperor claimed time, referred to his counsel, and challenged distinctly the legality of the tribunal. He pleaded that not only was the court at present assembled, from the inferior ranks of the officers composing it, incompetent to try him, or any of his generals, but also that

he being himself a Government recognised by every civilized power in the world, except the United States, could only be tried by a Congress of Nations, and that his trial, in the manner proposed, was totally illegal, quoting "Wheaton on International Law" as his authority. The protest, however, was as utterly useless as if made to a Cannibal chief.

What did they care for international law or the recognition of civilized nations?

So said the "Republican Government."

The court-martial was forthwith to be proceeded with, and its sentence (and no one doubted what that sentence would be) carried into execution.

Was such a court, or such a trial ever before heard of?

No one could say who really was the legal President of the Republic, or the Government, for, to say nothing of their having, for four years, been unable to sustain themselves as a Government their time of office had also long since expired, five years being the limit of tenure of office of the President and Cabinet unless re-

elected. Independent of this, the court was itself incompetent for the trial of prisoners, holding the respective ranks of the accused, and the proceedings were the greatest farce imaginable; sitting with closed doors, refusing to hear half that the prisoners or counsel had to say in their defence, with a total disregard to witnesses, they soon completed their murderous task. The forms of trial were hurried over with indecent haste, and on the 14th of June, in compliance no doubt with previous instructions, Ferdinand Maximilian, Miguel Miramon, and Tomas Mejia were sentenced to be shot. The Emperor had very properly declined to be present at his trial, pleading his sickness, though he had really quite recovered from his dysentery. He knew that a conviction had been already decided upon, and that all he could say or do would avail him nothing, and he very naturally shrank from the humiliation of being insulted by the "canaille," styled his judges.

On the same day the sentence was confirmed by Juarez and his cabinet at San Luis, and a telegram arrived at Queretero during the night

ordering the execution to take place on the 16th.

The foreign ministers and also Princess Salm Salm were instantly travelling, as fast as an express could take them, to San Luis, where they arrived late at night, to endeavour, by threats, promises, and entreaties, to work on the feelings of the bloodthirsty Indian, Juarez. All, however, was of no avail; promises that Maximilian would never, directly or indirectly, again meddle with Mexican affairs, of alliance and assistance from their respective Governments, of indemnification for wrongs inflicted, threats of European vengeance, and a beautiful woman's tears and entreaties, were alike equally useless. The Indian's war cry had been raised, the wild beast's thirst for blood excited, and blood he would have, blood, and no matter what the consequences, nothing but blood! All that could be obtained was a respite of three days, to enable the fallen Emperor to arrange his worldly affairs. Seeing at last that it was useless striving more, and that delaying their return longer was only increasing the agonizing moments of suspense, the party started

back for Queretero, where they arrived during the night, a telegraphic despatch having preceded them to Eseobedo to delay the execution for three days. Let us take a little glimpse at the illustrious captive in his wretched prison, while these exertions were being made on his behalf.

His constant companion was Prince Salm Salm, his old schoolfellow. This nobleman had served in the American war with great distinction, and was well known in the United States. He has since died a soldier's death in the late European war.

On the Emperor going to Mexico he at once hastened to join him.

On learning in the capital of His Majesty's sudden and almost secret departure upon the present expedition, he stole out of the city on horseback, and overtaking Maximilian on the road on the following day, declared that he would not be sent back again. Many a time since had the Emperor reason to be thankful for his old friend's devotedness.

There they sat, in their narrow cell of nine feet by twelve, playing ecarté by the hour, or chatting

cheerfully over their cigars, discussing with vivid interest, not their own probable fates, but the politics of Europe, Germany particularly, and also of America. The latter country had always possessed a great interest for Maximilian, who was never tired of hearing Salm Salm relate stories of the American war. When German politics were discussed Maximilian would become serious and almost stern, indulging in many dreams of a period of Austrian prosperity and Austria's liberty.

A fine picture he would have made in moments when he warmed with his subject, tall, and erect as a statue, his blue eyes kindling, and his great fair beard, quivering with excitement. He had many plans for the future, should, by any possibility, his life be spared. He intended to have resided in the Havannah for a few months until his Mexican affairs were settled, and then to retire to Miramar, and live in strict seclusion for some years at any rate. Notwithstanding this he seemed very satisfied with his position, and only anxious for his life, because he felt that the fates of many others were identical with his

own. He felt that no one could now say that he was a coward, which they might have said had he left the country with the French, or even escaped to Mexico, and left his generals to fight out the siege of Queretero. He had lost everything but his honour, which was now thoroughly satisfied, and he was apparently quite careless about the rest. Let it not, however, be supposed that he was unmindful of the exertions being made on his behalf; on the contrary he was most grateful, and wept like a child when he heard of the exposure and dangers underwent by the Princess Salm Salm for him.

Let us anticipate the arrival of the unsuccessful messengers of mercy, and take one more glance at the poor captives. It was midnight on the 15th, the eve of the day ordered for the execution. No information had been sent to the accused of the temporary reprieve. The Emperor was sitting at the only little table the meanly furnished cell afforded, writing by the aid of a miserable lamp. Salm Salm was asleep on a petate on the floor, and four armed sentinels paced up and down at the further end of the

apartment. Presently Salm Salm awoke, and rising, came up and stood at the Emperor's side. The latter patted him affectionately on the shoulder, asking how he had slept.

"Poorly, your Majesty," he replied. "I have had fearful dreams. Has any news arrived of my wife or the ambassadors?"

"None; but don't be deceived old friend, whatever may be the feeling of the party at San Luis, our friend Eseobedo will never hear of anything but my death."

"Alas! I also fear the worst. What can we expect from the long-eared beast, the savage mule driver?" (Eseobedo has immense ears, shaped like an elephant's.) "Oh! your Majesty, would that I could save you with my own life."

"Which I would rather suffer a hundred deaths than permit," replied the Emperor.

Soon after the sound of a female voice was heard at the door, which was being unlocked.

"Here she comes," cried Salm Salm, and as he spoke the Princess entered the room. She rushed into her husband's arms and whispered something to him. A second afterwards she fell

at the Emperor's feet and burst into tears. Gently raising her, the Emperor imprinted a tender kiss on her forehead, saying—

"I know the worst, dear lady, by your face. Never can I be sufficiently grateful for your devoted kindness, which deserved a worthier object, and a more successful issue; but never mind, don't weep, it is all for the best."

At the same time placing her in her husband's arms, he retired to the other end of the apartment. The sentinels at this moment considerately withdrew outside the apartment. Let us, dear reader, do the same, and leave the illustrious prisoners to their grief unmolested.

CHAPTER XV.

I HAVE already stated that on the 6th of April Diaz had moved his whole army to within four miles of the capital, but I must now relate important events which occurred previously to this date.

The city had been electrified by the sudden arrival, on the 26th of March, as if from the clouds, of Marquez, the new Lieutenant-General of the Empire, with five hundred cavalry at his back, with which he had managed to cut his way from Queretero in an incredibly short space of time, considering the obstacles with which he had to contend, and the necessity of proceeding frequently by mountain roads, in order to avoid falling in with large bodies of the enemy.

Armed with the authority given him by the Emperor already quoted, the new dictator showed immediately that he did not mean to allow the

grass to grow under his feet. A forced loan of eight hundred thousand dollars was immediately imposed; the press gangs, lazo in hand, scoured the city for recruits, the whole ministry was removed and a new one appointed. General Vidaurri was named to the treasury; Señor Lases, who had been in charge of the state department during the Emperor's absence, reduced to his former post of Minister of Justice, with a severe reprimand for his inactivity; and Señor Campos, the Minister of Finance, threatened to be brought to trial for failing to supply the army of Queretero with the necessary funds.

Among others, the Bank of London and South America was assessed at 50,000 dollars; the marriage portion of one of the foreign Ambassadors' wives, just married, at 8,000 dollars, his Excellency being informed, in answer to his remonstrances, that it was not his property which was taxed, but that of his Mexican wife, secured to her before her marriage. A contribution was laid on the owners of city property of one month's rent for the Government, and on the tenants of half a month's, to be paid within

sixty days. A large Spanish capitalist, who refused compliance, had his house closely invested by soldiers until he paid his quota; not a loaf of bread—in fact, nothing was permitted to pass the threshold of the hungry household, and notice was given that the next day the water would be cut off. This was not a singular instance, but one out of many. Property might then have been purchased in the City for a mere song, so great was the anxiety of everyone to turn their real estate into cash, and make off or hide before another similar loan was imposed.

The raising of a forced loan, or an army, when once vigourously commenced is soon completed in Mexico; within thirty-six hours, 400,000 dollars and 4,000 men had been raised, and the latter armed and equipped.

On the 1st of April (one would think the day had been specially selected by the Lieutenant-General, for what has since been termed by some wag, "his excursion to the country in search of glory"), 4,000 mixed Mexican troops, the Huzares Colorados, and my own corps, the Gendarmeria, a large train of artillery, and upwards

of one hundred waggons of munitions of war, stores, &c., besides the majority of the lately raised money, started at five a.m., by the road running through Guadaloupe, Otumba, and Assam, *en route* for Puebla, our supposed object being to relieve that garrison, and afterwards march to the succour of Queretero; though from what subsequently transpired, there was no doubt that the intention of Marquez was to proceed directly to the coast, and, leaving the army to take care of itself, embark with his treasure for some foreign port. Our march continued without interruption through Guadaloupe, San Christobal, across the celebrated Calzado, or Causeway, one league in length, which separates the lakes of Texoeo and San Christobal, through Otumba and Assam, and across the plains named after the latter place to Apisaco.

Here, however, indications of an approaching enemy appeared, and in a short time, several heavy columns, flanked by a large force of cavalry and artillery, broke into view. The fact was, that Porfirio Diaz, warned of Marquez's intended march, had hurried an assault on Puebla,

and as has already been described, carried the place, when, leaving a garrison there, he immediately started to meet us and give us battle, well knowing that he outnumbered us by more than three to one.

In addition to this, summoned by telegraph, which had been kept open to Queretero, Guardarama, with his division of cavalry, had come up by forced marches, and was waiting to take us in the rear. A position was quickly and very judiciously taken up by Marquez, his flanks being protected by the Hazares on the right, and the Gendarmeria on the left, under cover of which two batteries of artillery were moved forward and opened on the enemy. The first few battalions gave way directly the fire began to take effect, but being rallied by Diaz in person, and largely supported, they recommenced their advance, at the same time a murderous fire was opened from Diaz's rifled battery, which it soon appeared would in a short time render ours *hors de combat.* Marquez, under these circumstances, took the initiative, and leaving his position, ordered a charge from the cavalry, at the same

time moving his whole column of infantry forward at the double. This was just what Diaz wanted; the columns opposed to us gradually gave way, and we thought the day would soon be ours, when on both flanks appeared two more divisions of infantry, which had hitherto been concealed behind some small hills, and these, coming down at a run, halted within a couple of hundred yards and poured in a most murderous fire; at the same moment a cry was raised of cavalry in the rear, and advancing at the gallop, under a cloud of dust, appeared Guadarama's division of cavalry, numbering upwards of 2,000 men.

Confusion for the moment prevailed, but Marquez, who, though he subsequently proved himself a coward, was cool and collected, and evidently had no intention of being caught in a trap if he could help it. Sounding a retreat, he fell back on the baggage train before the approaching cavalry arrived, and hurried it with the infantry and artillery across the plain in the direction of the road to Huamantla, which leads directly to Orizava and Vera Cruz, and which was only

about half a league distant; we, the European cavalry, covering the flanks, and alternately charging the pursuing enemy, and retiring under cover of the guns. It was a great mercy that Diaz's guns were badly horsed, and could not be brought up quickly enough to follow us. Seeing this movement, Guadarama halted for a moment, and then, changing the direction of his division, moved them at full gallop in the same direction we were taking, but at a much greater angle, evidently with the intention of getting lower down the road, and thus completely cutting us off until Diaz could overtake us. This foolish movement for the time saved us. No sooner was Guadarama's division obscured from view by their own dust than Marquez again changed his course, pounding along as fast as the animals could gallop with the train, and the infantry run over the very ground by which Guadarama had advanced, namely, back towards Apam, the retreat being covered as before, and it was two hours before the Commander of the Liberal cavalry, after waiting about a league down the road, found

out how he had been outwitted, and that there was nothing for him to cut off.

The retreat was now up hill, which from our position, momentarily improving by occupying the higher ground, enabled us to keep Diaz in check until we reached the summit of a high plateau, overlooking Apisaco, to which there was only one practicable road, a species of defile, and we were enabled to take up a splendid position, and keep the enemy in check till darkness set in. A council of war was now called; it was evident that we were, since the arrival of Guadarama, more than quadrupled by the enemy, in addition to his having such a very large proportion of cavalry, and if on the morrow he increased the number of horses to his rifled battery, which of course he would, there was no doubt but that he would be able to annihilate our little army. A night retreat was therefore decided upon, and after a couple of hours to rest and refresh the animals, we resumed our march, arriving at the hacienda of San Lorenza, four leagues from Apam, at daybreak. Skirmishing took place all

along the road, but before we arrived the pursuit seemed, for the time being, to have ceased. A halt was now absolutely indispensable, as, in addition to the troops being completely worn out with hard marching and their long fast, for none of us had tasted anything since the action of the previous morning, the horses and animals were completely knocked up. Of course, the only object now in view was to make good our retreat to Mexico, as, should we by any means be cut off from the capital, a death blow to the Empire would be the result. Here, therefore, we remained during the day; plenty of forage was luckily obtainable, though little could be procured in the shape of human food. However, frijoles, tortellas, and pulche were to be had, and with these we were obliged to be satisfied, and thankful to obtain even them. Cavalry scouting parties were kept out in every direction to give notice of the approach of the enemy, and at about four p.m. they came galloping in with the intelligence that they were within two leagues, and the cavalry preceding them at full gallop. Little time sufficed to form the order of march; fortunately,

the enemy could only approach by one side, while the other was left open for our retreat. The train and infantry were on the road in fifteen minutes, leaving us, the cavalry and the lightest of the field batteries, to cover their retreat.

On came Guadarama, with his splendid body of horse, until within a few hundred yards of the walls by which the hacienda was surrounded, when, seeing a barricade in front of the gateway, and the battery unlimbered, they suddenly came to a halt. A well directed round from the latter soon made them retire out of range, where they were kept until the column was several leagues on the road. At last, Col. de Kodolitch, commanding the whole of the Austrian cavalry, an officer devoted to the Emperor's cause, and who had greatly distinguished himself during the whole campaign, gave the order to limber up and retire; and our little force, mustering now scarcely 600 sabres, trotted in perfect order out of the hacienda, by one gate, just as the head of Guadarama's column, now reinforced by the rifled battery, entered by the other, having stormed with great gallantry our *deserted*

barricade. The officer commanding our artillery, a Prussian, who had long resided in Mexico, and had in fact, once served in the Liberal army when Juarez was president, could not resist the temptation of unlimbering just at the gate, and giving them one more round, across the hacienda square, a distance of some 500 yards, which, though not expected at the time, served materially to favour our retreat, as it mowed down their leading squadrons terribly, and caused them a great delay from the confusion which ensued; while we, with the artillery, which was splendidly horsed, were at a hard gallop along the direct road to Otumba, leaving Apam on our right. Of course the enemy were soon in full pursuit, bringing their rifled guns now, with the number of horses doubled, along with them; however, we gained the summit of a hill, from which we again opened fire with good effect, which was hotly answered, but alas! for placing fine weapons in the hands of ignorant Indians, the *rifled* cannon proved our salvation, the balls passing high over our heads and striking the opposite hill; the fact was the Liberal gunners

were totally ignorant of the proper method of sighting these weapons, and thus fired at just double the proper elevation. Thus we continued, disputing the ground, from hill to hill, till we reached the neighbourhood of Otumba, occasionally charging the leading squadrons of the Liberal cavalry, to enable our battery to limber up and retire, which, be it remembered, is not done by Mexicans with the same celerity as my readers may have witnessed at a field day of the Royal Horse Artillery in England. At Otumba, we rejoined the column, the pursuit for the present having ceased, no doubt to enable Diaz, with his infantry, to come up. Here we were electrified by the intelligence that the Calzada, separating the two lakes at San Christobal, had been cut, thus forming one entire sheet of water, and our retreat by that route, the only thoroughly practicable one, was consequently cut off. This was a terrible blow, but there was nothing for it but to endeavour to get round by Tescoco, going round instead of across that lake; and here, as by this time all the forces investing Mexico were trying to prevent Marquez's retreat, we were pretty

sure to be harassed during the whole march, on our flanks as well as in our rear. A few hours rest, and we were again off at two in the morning in the same order as before, Marquez with the Mexican cavalry in front, infantry and artillery, waggon trains, &c., in the centre, Huzares Colorados, and Gendarmeria, not forgetting our little light battery, bringing up the rear. All went well until a bridge was reached, crossing a deep baranca, or ravine, near where the road branched off to Tescoco; Marquez and all the superior Mexican officers, who all rode with the General (a bad Mexican custom, instead of being in their places with their own commands), had already crossed, also a portion of the infantry, and guns, and the whole of the Mexican cavalry, when, fearful to behold, the bridge, which was covered with carts and waggons, gave way, precipitating the whole, with a thundering crash, amidst the curses of men, the cries of women, the groan of horses and mules, and the rattle of the breaking waggons, into the ravine below. At the same moment clouds of dust appeared in front, and cries of "the enemy are upon us," re-

sounded on all sides. All was now confusion, the General's trumpeter, in his fright, sounded an attack in rear instead of in front, troops were hurrying in the wrong direction, and running against one another, and a general disorder prevailed.

In the midst of this, Guadarama's cavalry appeared, charging down upon us from the neighbouring hill behind. It was now that the Lieutenant-General of the Empire, the man who had always been considered the prop and stay of the Emperor's cause, whose activity as a general was the talk of everyone, showed himself in his true colours. Cruel, unscrupulous and blood-thirsty, we all knew him to be, but we never had imagined him a coward, still less the base, unmitigated cur, he now proved himself. Turning to the officers round him, he exclaimed "Caramba (my God) they are upon us, Varminos; let us go," and accompanied by all his generals and senior Mexican officers, and cavalry, he set off at full speed on the Tescoco road, *en route* for the capital, where, harassed all the way by the enemy's pursuing cavalry, flying like a

fox from the hounds, he arrived during the night accompanied by scarcely fifty horsemen, chiefly officers, having abandoned the whole of his infantry, guns, baggage-train, money, and foreign troops, to the tender mercies of the enemy. For some minutes we could hardly believe that such was the case, or rally from our astonishment, but it was soon too evident. Col. de Kodolitch now displayed the excellent qualities of a brave and clever officer, for which he was so justly celebrated. Instantly assuming the command, he, by his noble example, and unremitting exertions, succeeded in rallying the troops, in which he was nobly aided by the young Count Kevenhuller, the colonel of the Huzares Colorados, and also by Count Vickenburgh, colonel-in-chief of my own corps, the Gendarmeria ; a cloud of skirmishers covered by the light battery and the Gendarmeria were thrown out to keep Guadarama in check, and meanwhile, as it was now impossible to take the heavy guns, or baggage-train any further, on account of the breaking of the bridge; the whole were rolled over the edge into the precipice below, and never

shall I forget the grandeur of the scene as they went tumbling down the rocks, falling with a fearful crash into a thousand pieces at the bottom. The money also had to be left, as no one could be found in the confusion who could point out in which waggons it was packed, all the muleteers, waggoners, &c., having bolted. This work of destruction being effected, the infantry were moved off across country, over hills, and down valleys, towards Tescoco, an immense detour having to be made in order to find a practicable spot for crossing the ravine; they were eventually joined by those on the other side, while the whole retreat was as before covered by the foreign cavalry and light mountain guns, which, notwithstanding all obstacles our energetic Prussian artillery colonel managed to bring along. The fighting, however, was desperate, and the slaughter terrible, as Diaz had now come up, and our little force was retreating before a well-equipped army of more than six times their number, and though unimpeded by baggage and having nothing but themselves and arms to carry, neither infantry nor cavalry could

move quickly, from the nature of the ground over which they were passing. Meanwhile, battalion after battalion of the enemy were attacking us in flanks and rear, pouring down a galling fire upon us the whole time, and each moment they were bringing more artillery into position to bear upon us. As for our cavalry, they had to be charging the enemy's the whole time to prevent their outflanking the infantry.

To say that the retreat was in perfect order would be absurd; often it was a hard run, and but for the exertions of Kodolitch, Kevenhuller, and many other Austrian officers, all of whom behaved splendidly, it would have been a complete rout. However, we managed to continue steadily on, though mowed down terribly the whole way by the enemy's fire, without being flanked, until night—never more ardently longed for—at length put an end to the contest to a great degree, and continuing our march, we reached the capital next morning with just one third the number that Marquez had deserted the day before, the rest being all either killed or

wounded; the latter, unfortunately, it was impossible to bring.

Chafing under his defeat like a baffled tiger, and mad with conscious shame, the first thing Marquez did on his arrival was to seek out a victim on whom to vent his spleen. A communication was made to him, with what truth I cannot say, that General Ohoran, the Prefect of the City, was in secret correspondence with Diaz, and had offered to deliver up the city and Marquez himself on condition of a guarantee for his own life and liberty.

Sending for him immediately, the Lieutenant-General, without any enquiry, or even the formality of a trial, after abusing him to his heart's content, ordered his immediate execution, and in less than half an hour the wretched old man was shot by a file of soldiers. New loans, double in number to the first one, were at once demanded, and all who demurred, or even could not pay, were at once cast into a dungeon, kept without food, and told that after the second day if the money was not raised they would be shot. Two masons who

had been employed by Marquez to construct a secret subterranean passage in his house, as a means of escape should it become necessary, and who had been promised a large reward, were said to have been privately put to death by his orders, instead of being paid; on the principle, I suppose, that "dead men tell no tales," as they were never seen again. They had been prisoners in the house during the whole period their job lasted.

A meeting of foreign officers now took place, at which we all unanimously decided that we would no longer serve under or obey the orders of the Lieutenant-General Marquez, his base cowardice in deserting his command at San Christobal, in consequence of which two-thirds of our respecive regiments were lost, and the crimes daily perpetrated by him, fully justifying us in this proceeding. We therefore entirely threw off acknowledgement of the Mexican army or Mexican authorities, and formed ourselves into an independent body, deciding to wait the issue of events, ready to serve his Majesty the Emperor the moment an opportunity should occur, and to defend ourselves against all comers. This was officially

communicated to the Lieutenant-General, and, as may be imagined, his fury knew no bounds. His first impulse was to arrest us all, and have us summarilary shot, but that was more easily said than done. Our men were well organized, and on the receipt of the intelligence of his order the whole force was drawn up in line of battle in front of their quarters, quite prepared to show fight if necessary, a glance at which showed this noble hero that prudence would be the better part of valour, feeling no doubt very doubtful if, with his whole garrison of Mexican troops, he could make a successful attack upon us.

"Let them be," he said, "we can do equally well without them."

Subscriptions were raised to provide subsistence for the men, and to his everlasting praise be it said, Kevenhuller, who was fortunately a very rich man, paid his entire regiment during the time out of his own pocket, being accommodated with the necessary ready money by Mr. Nathaniel Davidson, the nephew and agent of the house of Rothschild.

Diaz having now all his heavy siege train in

position, commenced a thundering bombardment of the city, which he kept up daily; every avenue was completely barred, so that nothing but a large armed force could possibly effect an exit.

The aqueduct which supplied the city with water was cut off, leaving nothing but the Artesian Wells for the use of the entire population, and horses, mules, dogs, and cats were the principal staples of consumption. The siege progressed, as everything undertaken by Mexicans always does; a desultory fire from the skirmishers on both sides, in which sharpshooters were perpetually trying their skill, very rarely doing more damage than knocking a piece of brick from the wall of a house, or tearing the branches of the shrubs lying within their range.

Few casualties occurred on either side from the firing, except at the hours when Diaz was treating us to a little bombardment, and even then they were less than might have been expected, and but for the constant tramp of cavalry patrolling the streets with drawn sabres, an observer might have been impressed with the belief that nature had sunk to rest. The famine was daily making rapid

strides, and the number of deaths from starvation was frightful. It not having been anticipated by the merchants that any very prolonged siege would ever take place, the laying in of large stocks of provisions had been neglected, in fact the majority of the people thought that the city having no natural strength of position, and the only fortifications consisting of a few hastily thrown up earth works, the Liberals, from their overwhelming numbers, now upwards of 40,000 men before the place, would literally have walked in. When, however, every avenue of ingress and egress became closed, and it was suddenly announced that the supplies in the place amounted to comparatively nothing, there was a perfect rush for every article of food, especially corn, rice, and beans, which constitute the principal staples of consumption of the poorer classes.

In an incredibly short space of time the whole stock of provisions, in so far as was known to be in the place, was in the hands of consumers, thus completely depriving at least one half the people of the possibility of obtaining even articles of first necessity. At least two-thirds of the popu-

lation of Mexico live, to use a vulgar expression, "from hand to mouth," each day managing to obtain from some source or other a few reals to supply their immediate wants, and like the lilies of the field "taking no thought for the morrow," and upon them the failure of supplies fell with crushing force.

Each morning an immense crowd gathered round the doors of the bakeries which still remained open, many having taken their places as early as one a.m, hoping thereby to secure a front position, and thus ensure a supply of bread for their starving families. Squads of soldiers guarded the doors, which were also barricaded, a small trap door, like that at a railway ticket office, through which the precious article was passed, being alone kept open. At nine a.m. the distribution of the bread began, each person receiving one small loaf, as long as the supply lasted, on payment of a dollar, when a scene of the wildest excitement would take place, men, women, and children making a simultaneous rush towards the door, and raising their baskets over their heads

or extending their arms at full length, would fairly scream with excitement for fear the supply should be exhausted before they were served. Hundreds, after waiting for hours, would see the last loaf disappear and the door closed, and with smothered curses return empty handed to their starving households.

Beef of the poorest quality retailed at a dollar and a half a pound, horse and mule flesh at half a dollar, flour a dollar, and these, with the exception of horse and mule flesh, for which there were government shops, could only be had through the influence of friends. Dogs and cats were temptingly exposed for sale, trussed for cooking, and eagerly bought by many. How my poor wife and many other ladies would have done I cannot even now picture to myself, had not some of us occasionally managed by foraging with the advanced pickets, under a heavy fire, to buy some little articles of consumption from a stray Indian, such as a fowl, young pig, beans, potatoes, &c., &c.; but it was only rarely this could be effected, and then at extortionate prices.

I have given as much as fifteen dollars for a loaf of bread during the latter portion of the siege, rather than let her go without it.

In the meantime, an order was issued by General Tabera, regulating prices, and directing all persons having any stock of provisions to make report of the same to the Mayor of the City within twenty-four hours, on pain of having the whole confiscated. This was scarcely heeded, and only warned those who had any to hide them more securely. There were, however, a few exceptions, who at once responded to the command, and whose stock was instantly placed on sale. Large crowds were of course attracted, and similar scenes to those described above were enacted. Two days sufficed to dispose of the small quantity thus procured, and not another ounce of food was known to be on sale in the City.

Some deposits of produce were just at this time discovered by the police, which were immediately seized and taken to the custom-house, from whence they were gratuitously distributed to the poor.

Fearful acts of cruelty were prepetrated during

the distribution, both by the soldiery and people, which turned one's blood cold.

Whilst the gratuitous distribution above referred to was going on, a miserable woman, whose emaciated condition betokened her sufferings, attempted to crowd her way to the doors of the building, and was rudely pushed back by one of the guards, who struck her in the face with his fist. Goaded to desperation, by hunger and the blow combined, she grappled with her persecutor, and being assisted by several of the crowd, bore him to the ground, where he was quickly despatched and his body trampled to pieces by the mob. Another soldier, in forcing back the immense crowd assailing the doors, struck a woman with his sword, badly cutting her arm, and laying open the head of an infant which she carried, killing it on the spot, and the next moment he was pierced by a dozen knives, and fell lifeless to the earth. A report obtained currency that a large quantity of grain was stored in one of the theatres, which would be disposed of next day. A crowd was of course in attendance; the hour passed when the distribu-

tion was to have taken place, when becoming impatient at the delay, the crowd forced an entrance and rushed in, ransacking the fine building, destroying furniture, scenery, &c., in their vexation and disappointment at finding that nothing of the sort existed. Their rage knew no bounds, and cries of "Down with Marquez," "Death to the tyrant," resounded. But the scene only served to illustrate Mexican cowardice; General Tabera, with a small escort, was seen approaching, when the utmost quiet and order immediately prevailed.

Matters had gone on thus until the 31st May, when in order to partially relieve the starving condition of the people, an edict was issued that all persons desirous of quitting the City might do so, for which purpose a flag of truce would be obtained, this permission to extend to three days. Over 3,000 persons were soon *en route*, chiefly of the poorer classes, to whom moving house was a small affair, and being permitted to pass the Liberal lines, were soon *en route* for the villages in rear. The next day the press to get out was immense; rich and poor, on horseback,

on foot, in carriages, carts, and every description of vehicle, while strings of waggons, containing furniture and other effects, crowded the road. They were permitted to pass the first lines, and even the second, until arrived at Chapultapec, where they were stopped until the Liberal General's permission to proceed was granted. After the whole procession had been kept waiting the greater part of the day, an order arrived for them to return, and refusing to permit anyone from the City to enter the Liberal lines in future. This was the most cruel scene of the war, and reflects greatly on Diaz. Surely, starving mothers and children, and ruined fathers, many of whom were staunch Liberals at heart, might have moved his compassion. In civilized warfare it has always been customary to permit non-combatants to leave a besieged city, especially one being daily bombarded.

On the 5th June the intelligence of the Emperor's capture and the fall of Queretero reached us, and the only thing left to do seemed to be to endeavour to obtain terms for his Majesty, in consideration of the immediate surrender of the

place. Padre Fischer, the Emperor's confessor, and several others, undertook to be the envoys, though little hope existed of their success, as the Princess Salm Salm had, on a previous occasion, been the bearer of a flag of truce to Diaz, accompanied by some of the principal ladies of the place, to offer to induce Maximilian to abdicate, if his life were guaranteed and those of his followers, by representing to him the state of the capital. This Diaz had refused to listen to. The flag of truce, with Padre Fischer, however started, the offer made being the immediate surrender of the city, on condition that the Emperor's life, and those of his officers, were guaranteed, and a free permit for the foreign troops to leave the country. Diaz's answer was, that he would grant the required terms, only excepting the Emperor, over whose destiny he had no control, and Marquez, Quiroga, and Vidaurri, whose lives he would not guarantee. It is needless to say that these terms were not acceded to.

Things got worse and worse as each day advanced. Bread had long ago ceased; with our

coffee in the morning we indulged in the luxury of a kind of biscuit, made of starch, this being the only food, not animal, obtainable, except sometimes a few frijoles, as a great luxury. The deaths in the city, from starvation alone, exceeded fifty daily, while those from disease, especially typhus, produced by the sole use of bad animal food, and the scarcity and inferior quality of the water, far exceeded that number. The cowardice of the Liberal general, who, with upwards of sixty thousand men, and a splendid siege train, refused to storm a city with literally no defences, and garrisoned by only some eight thousand odd troops was unheard of; but Escobedo's policy of making war only on the larder seemed fashionable.

One morning a dead mule was discovered hung up just outside the Garrita de San Cosme, with a large placard fastened to it—

"Carne Para los Traidores."
(Meat for the traitors.)

This was shortly answered by some of the

Imperial Mexican soldiers, by stringing up an old woman, who had that morning died of starvation, with a placard on her breast—

"Carne Para los Cobardes."
(Meat for the Cowards.)

On the 10th June Marquez and Quiroga, at the head of a force of five thousand infantry and cavalry, made a reconnaissance in the direction of Santa Anita, for the purpose of drawing out the strength of the Liberal commander, and of obtaining supplies, if possible. At first a spirited attack was made, driving the enemy from their lines in great disorder, but the latter, being quickly and largely reinforced, the Imperialists, after sustaining the fight for two hours, were driven back within the city, leaving two hundred killed behind them, besides upwards of three hundred wounded. Several horses were also lost, and unfortunately a very insignificant amount of forage gained. The Liberal loss, however, must have been very heavy, though the precise amount could not be ascertained.

On the 19th of June the sad news arrived, by

telegraph from Queretero (being forwarded to the city through the Liberal lines) of the fearful tragedy which had just taken place there, and that there was no longer an Empire or an Emperor to fight for. Further resistance seemed now not only useless but wicked, and unnecessarily prolonging famine and disease to half a million wretched citizens. Representations to this effect were made from all quarters to Marquez, who seemed thoroughly tamed.

To the astonishment of everyone he at once voluntarily resigned his powers of Lugarteniente, or Deputy, of the Empire, and delivered over the command of the city and troops to General Ramon Tabera. This action was a matter of general wonder, as he had always been the last to give up, and had been the most tenacious of all the supporters of the cause. With his assumption of the command Tabera called a Council of War, and proposed the idea of surrender, in which he was heartily joined by several, though others voted continuing the defence, having little faith in the safety of their necks when once in the power of the Liberals. Reason, however, at

length prevailed, and at four p.m. an officer was despatched to Diaz's head quarters, with instructions to obtain twenty-four hours' armistice. This was done, and white flags were soon flying from all the fortifications, and hostilities for the time being ceased. General Diaz acquiesced in the proposition for a conference, and named General Tabera as the person with whom he would prefer to hold a consultation on the following morning.

At seven a.m. next day General Tabera, accompanied by the principal officers of the garrison (Marquez excepted), including several of us foreigners, left the city and proceeded by the "Passeo de Maximiliano" to the fortifications crowning it, some four hundred and fifty yards from the city limits, from which point Tabera went on alone, in conformity with the request of the Liberal commander, and taking a carriage placed at his disposal, he was at once conveyed to Chapultapec, the place appointed for the interview.

This lasted about two hours, when he returned to the lines, joining us, and going at once to head quarters. Another Council was summoned,

and the terms Diaz offered, unconditional surrender, were announced. These, after a few moments' consultation, were rejected, though Tabera strongly advocated giving up the place.

The armistice expired by limit at five p.m., and immediately after the Council adjourned. In ten minutes the white flags were replaced by the red, white, and green, and the heaviest fire to which the city had yet been subjected was opened upon it. The shells were tearing through the air and bursting in all parts of the town, while round shot and bullets literally rained down. The large crowds which had assembled along the western side of the city rushed panic stricken away. All the general officers were hastily summoned again to Tabera's head quarters, when it was at length decided to surrender at discretion, as it had been ascertained that not three rounds per man of any kind of ammunition remained in the magazine. A flag of truce was again sent to the enemy's lines, asking for the appointment by Diaz of officers to regulate the terms of capitulation, who would meet those designated by General Tabera, and together complete the negociations

during the night. This being agreed to, quiet once more reigned. The European troops, taking up their quarters in the Imperial Palace, quietly awaited what arrangements would be made respecting them, and fully determined to resist, if necessary, any attempt on their liberty, or that of their officers.

During the night the following terms were agreed to by the delegates of the contending parties :—

Terms of Capitulation.

Article 1.—Hostilities shall immediately cease, and not be resumed, unless the ratification of this agreement fails of acceptation.

Article 2.—The life, property, and liberty of the peaceful inhabitants of the capital shall be under the protection of General Porfirio Diaz.

Article 3.—General Tabera shall nominate a commission of three persons, who will place the garrison at the disposition of General Diaz, as follows :—Some employé of the Department of the Treasury ; one person to hand over the troops, and another to deliver over the material of war.

An equal number of persons will be nominated by General Diaz to receive the surrender of the above.

Article 4.—The native Imperial troops shall be formed in order in their respective districts and march to the city arsenal, where they will remain until handed over; the Contra guerrillas, under Genet (a French officer, formerly commandante in the Gendarmeria), shall concentrate in San Pablo and San Pedro, and the foreign troops shall remain in the palace.

Article 5.—The commanding generals, chiefs, and officers shall retain their swords, and present themselves in such places as shall be named hereafter.

The ratification of the terms took place at the castle of Chapultapec on the following morning by the signature of Generals Ramon Tabera and Porfirio Diaz. At six a.m., General Diaz entered the city at the head of six thousand troops, taking his way at once to the Grand Plaza. The troops entered the city in the most quiet and orderly manner, and on reaching the Plaza, were at once despatched to the

different parts of the city to take possession, and prevent any disturbances. Everything was done with the utmost order and precision. No outrages were committed, nor any unlawful act performed by any of the troops. The conquering army was not, however, greeted with any marks of enthusiasm, such as would have been expected from the inhabitants of a city just released from a state of starvation, and all the horrors of a prolonged siege.

Scarcely any but American flags could be seen; not a cheer greeted the victorious General as he rode through the streets, nor did a single bell disturb the silence which prevailed, until some hours afterwards, when, by Diaz's orders, the Cathedral peal commenced, which was immediately taken up by the other churches of the city, creating a din which could be heard far over the valley.

Large crowds of Indians soon poured in, bringing all kinds of food, poultry, fruit, vegetables, &c., the people then commenced to leave their houses, and for the first time, for upwards of eighty days, Mexico began to put on her holiday garb.

Diaz had on a previous occasion been in communication with the officer commanding the foreign troops, and was aware of the semi-neutral position they had occupied since the enormities of Marquez; in fact, he had offered to cover them with his guns, should they decide on cutting their way out of the city, and freeing themselves from Marquez's presence, stipulating, however, that they should give up their arms to him, and proceed at once to the coast for embarkation.

This proposition could not, of course, at the time, be acceded to, as we were all bound, by every tie of honour as well as affection, to the Emperor, and as long as he remained in the country, and our assistance was likely to be of use to him, we could not think of deserting his cause, though refusing to obey his Lieutenant, who had so grossly abused the confidence reposed in him. Now our poor Emperor was no more, we were free to depart, and little doubt existed but that terms would be made with Diaz in furtherance of that object.

CHAPTER XVI.

At seven o'clock in the morning of the 19th of June, 1867, the bell of the convent of La Capuchina commenced its solemn toll, being immediately taken up by those of all the other convents and churches in the city of Queretero, announcing that one of the most savage and bloodthirsty state murders on record in the history of nations was about to be committed there.

As early as six, the whole of the troops, under command of Escobedo, were formed upon the Sierra de la Campana, a short distance from the city, the place appointed for the enactment of the bloody tragedy. The people of Queretero were flocking in thousands to the place to catch a last fond glance of the Emperor they loved so much, and undaunted by the frowns of the long-eared butcher, Escobedo, by whose influence it had been brought about, or the presence of his

soldiers, to offer a last tribute of their affection and respect.

The Emperor had requested that he and his fellow sufferers, Miramon and Mejia, might be permitted to spend their last night on earth together. His friend Prince Salm Salm had been removed to a dark dungeon, and the Princess forcibly put out of Queretero on the discovery of a plot, organised by the latter, for the escape of the prisoners, and no further interview had been permitted between them. His Majesty's request had been granted, and they had all occupied a large room in the old convent, which had served formerly as a hospital for the French troops. The room, which was spacious and comfortable, was on the ground floor, forming the principal hall of the building, and had been used by the French as the hospital dispensary. It had two windows, looking out on the Court-yard and gardens, and at one end an altar had been prepared.

The sentinels had strict orders to fire on anyone who should attempt to pass without a special order from the captain of the guard. The Bishop

of Queretero had offered his services, and being permitted to pass in they were gratefully accepted by all three prisoners. Most of the night was passed in solemn conversation, and in preparing to meet their end. Miramon suffered a great deal from his wound in the eye, which he kept perpetually bathing in cold water during the latter part of the night; Mejia slept soundly; at about midnight, Maximilian asked for writing materials, which were obtained with some difficulty, owing to the lateness of the hour. He wrote two letters—one to the Archduchess Sophia, his mother, and the other to the Empress Carlotta, his wife, which latter I feel justified in repeating to my readers, as the contents have already been published by Eseobedo, who most indecently opened it before permitting its transmission. It was as follows:—

"My beloved Carlotta,

"If God permit that your health be restored, and you should read these few lines, you will learn the cruelty with which Fate has stricken me since your departure for Europe.

You took with me not only my heart, but my good fortune. Why did I not give heed to your voice? So many untoward events! Alas! so many sudden blows have shattered all my hopes, so that death is but a happy deliverance, not an agony to me. I shall die gloriously, like a soldier, like a monarch—vanquished, but not dishonoured. If your sufferings are too great, and God shall call you soon to join me, I shall bless His Divine hand which has weighed so heavily upon us.

"Adieu, adieu.

"Your poor

"MAXIMILIAN."

Into this letter he placed a lock of his hair, which the wife of one of his guards had obtained his permission to cut off for him. On receiving it he kissed it; when placing it in the envelope, he sealed his letters, and gave them to the Bishop of Queretero, extorting a solemn promise from him to see, personally, that they were safely delivered.

His Majesty then delivered to the same prelate

his will, in which, after the disposition of the bulk of his property, legacies of a hundred thousand dollars (£20,000) each were left to the widows of Miramon and Mejia; all his old servants were remembered, including the Hungarian cook, who has a pension of £100 per annum for life, and many of the foreign officers devoted to his cause.

A letter was also attached to the document to his brother, the Emperor of Austria, conjuring him to take care of the noble few who had lost everything in his behalf.

About four o'clock the Emperor wished mass to be said, which was done by the Bishop as soon as Mejia had been awakened to join in the service; subsequently, all three received the Holy Communion. Afterwards the Emperor remained a long time, kneeling on the hard stones, with his eyes on the ground, and his head resting on his hands, in a pensive attitude;—those present could not tell whether he was engaged in prayer, or only weeping. Miramon remained pale and downcast; Mejia seemed perfectly at his ease, displaying in a great degree his Indian stoicism—

he also considered it a great honour to die with his Sovereign.

As the bells commenced tolling, the captain of the guard entered the apartment, and the music of the solemn procession was heard approaching the convent. Respectfully saluting the Emperor, the Captain, Gonzales, informed his Majesty that the hour had arrived. The procession was immediately formed outside the convent door. A squadron of Lancers led the way, followed by a band which played the "Dead March." A battalion of infantry formed two lines, each four deep, between which marched the condemned. When the procession reached the main gate of the convent, Mejia cried out, "Sire, for the last time, show us again the example of your noble courage; we follow in the footsteps of your Majesty." Just at this moment the Franciscans were passing. The first two bore the cross and the holy water, the remainder carrying lighted tapers. Each of the three coffins was borne by four Indians, immediately behind which were three carriages for the accommodation of the prisoners, each preceded by a monk bearing a black cross. The Captain

made a sign to the Emperor to take his seat in the foremost, which his Majesty did in a cheerful manner, turning to his companions in misfortune and saying, "Vamos a nuestra libertad." (Let us go to our freedom). The procession then wended its way through the streets of the town, and here a most distressing incident occurred, which nearly succeeded, not only in overcoming the feelings of his Majesty and his fellow officers, but of all present. The wife of Mejia, who had become raving mad since the condemnation of her husband, appeared rushing frantically through the streets, with her two younger children in her arms, and endeavoured to break through the barrier formed by the soldiers guarding the procession, and she was with great difficulty forcibly, though kindly, carried away by some of the soldiery. When the *cortége* had reached the top of the height of La Campana, Maximilian looked fixedly towards the rising sun, then drawing from his pocket his watch, touched a spring in it, and producing a miniature likeness of the Empress Carlotta, he pressed it to his lips, and then handing it by the chain to the venerable bishop by his

side, said "Carry this souvenir to my beloved wife, and should she ever be able to understand you, tell her that my eyes were closed with her likeness, which I will bear with me to heaven."

As they neared the place of execution, convulsive sobs broke from the crowd, all, even the soldiery, appearing deeply affected; and when at length the carriages stopped, and the condemned alighted, not a dry eye could have been found in the whole assemblage; every head (the military excepted) was uncovered, and cries of weeping and commisseration resounded on all sides, at the same time tokens of the greatest dissatisfaction were manifested, and nothing but the strong military force prevented a rising of the people, and probably a rescue.

The Emperor, on alighting from his carriage, saluted the people in a dignified and graceful manner, and with an elastic step marched to the fatal spot. He then spoke a few words in a clear, firm voice, free from bravado, though he evidently felt his position deeply. He said that when he was first waited upon at Miramar, by a deputation from Mexico which came with credentials,

offering him the government of the country, he refused it. By a subsequent deputation the proposition was again made to him, when he replied that if he could become convinced that a majority of the people of Mexico thought it was to their interest to place him at the head of the Government, that he might consent, but not otherwise. A few months later, a third deputation awaited upon him, and brought him additional testimonials. Upon taking the advice of the leading powers of Europe, he was told that he had no other course to pursue but to accept the call, which he at length did. He denied that the court which had tried him had the power to do so, as this was a case in which the good faith of the most powerful nations of the world was pledged.

He had never performed an act which had not been for the good of Mexico, and he hoped that the spilling of his might stop the further effusion of blood in the country, though he feared it would not.

Miramon spoke a few words only. His only regret, he said, at dying, was that the Liberals

should still remain in power, and that his children would be pointed at as those of a traitor; but he was no traitor. Mejia said nothing, but Indian-like, preserved an indifferent silence. The three black crosses and a small bench for each prisoner, were fixed against the wall, and the three firing platoons, each composed of five men, with a reserve of two under officers for the *coup de grace*, advanced to within three paces of the condemned. The Emperor now approached his two companions, and embraced them with touching earnestness. Miramon was so affected that he almost fell, and had to be supported by the Franciscans attending on him. Mejia returned the Emperor's embrace with great affection, uttering some broken words which could not be distinguished, and then crossing his arms on his breast, stood up nobly to meet his doom. The Bishop, then advancing to Maximilian, said, "Sire, in my person bestow upon Mexico the kiss of reconciliation; let your Majesty forgive all at this supreme moment." The Emperor, agitated to the utmost, allowed the good Bishop to embrace him, amidst the most profound

silence, only the convulsive sobs from the crowd in the distance being audible. Then, suddenly raising his voice, he cried out, "Tell Lopez that I forgive him his treason; tell all Mexico that I forgive her her crime." Taking out his pocket-handkerchief, he wiped the tears from his eyes, and turning to his faithful Hungarian servant, who had followed him from the prison door to this spot, he shook hands with him, and putting the handerkerchief into his hands, said, "Give this to my poor dear mother." Clinging to his knees and sobbing convulsively, the poor Hungarian covered his Majesty's feet with kisses, when the Emperor gently disengaged himself, moved forward to the sergeant of the firing party, and taking out a handful of gold, twenty dollar pieces, told him to divide it with his men, at the same time requesting that they would aim only at his heart. Then, turning to the officer in command (making use of the old Mexican term of politeness), said, with a sad smile, "A la disposicion de vsted, Senor," at your disposal, sir.

The officer, with tears in his eyes, asked the

Emperor's forgiveness, adding that he could not help himself, that he had no choice but to obey orders. Gently rallying him, his Majesty replied, "No forgiveness is necessary; courage, my son—a soldier must always do his duty."

When the officer gave the command to aim, Maximilian uttered the words "Poor Carlotta," which were half drowned by the report of the muskets. Miramon rolled over dead on the spot. Mejia struggled a little, but a shot in the ear finished his pain. The Emperor fell over on the cross, which kept him from the ground; he still breathed, when the corporal, placing the muzzle of his musket close to his heart, ended his earthly sufferings.

Thus died Ferdinand Maximilian, of Hapsburg, a victim not only to the base treachery of the miserable wretch who sold his benefactor, or the bloodthirsty cruelty of a horde of half civilized Indians, but also to the mean and cowardly desertion of the nation that had involved him in his present difficulties, and there left him to combat them single-handed.

Thus died the third Emperor Mexico ever knew,

who during his short and stormy reign was universally beloved and respected by all with whom he came in contact. Always charitable, generous and open-hearted to excess, the kindest of masters, the most forgiving of enemies, and the most affectionate of friends, possessing the most amiable and unselfish disposition possible to conceive in man; a brave soldier, a highly-bred gentleman, polite to all, and a sincere Christian. While bidding him a long farewell, the words of the poet come forcibly to my mind—"None knew him but to love him, nor mentioned but to praise."

CONCLUSION.

LITTLE more now remains to be told. With the memorable tragedy described in the last chapter ended the short history of the Mexican Empire.

Favourable terms were soon made with Diaz after the occupation of the capital by that officer, by which all the Imperial European troops were permitted peaceably to march down to Vera Cruz, which city had been delivered up to the Liberal authorities on receipt of the news of the capitulation of the capital, the officers and others committed to the Imperial cause, and foreign troops stationed there, having embarked for the United States previous to the entry of the Liberal troops into the town, in accordance with the terms of capitulation. We, the officers of the foreign troops in the capital, were permitted to retain our arms, horses, &c.; transport for both officers' and men's baggage was furnished by the

Liberal authorities, and one dollar per day per officer, and two reals (one shilling English) to each man, as subsistence money during the march. This being doubled by funds furnished by the different Embassies of the powers to which the men belonged, served to buy sufficient to live on till we embarked. Marquez could nowhere be found. Some supposed him to be hidden in the city, while others said (which was most probable) that he had escaped to the mountains during the excitement occasioned by the entry of the Liberal troops. Certain it is that he had upwards of a million dollars about his person at the time in European exchange, the fruits of his forced loans, and that he was never seen nor heard of since. The most probable conclusion to be drawn is that he managed to reach the coast and embarked for some foreign country, to live for the remainder of his days on his ill-gotten gains.

Maximilian's enemies made one of the main charges against him his celebrated decree of the 3rd October, 1865, given much against his will at the repeated demands of Bazaine, which warned all lawless persons taken with arms in their hands

after that date, that they would be summarily treated, but it must be remembered that at this time there was no existing Liberal Government, or any in the country, Juarez and his principal adherents having retreated, as was said, to California, and that this decree, which by the way was never enforced, was directed against the numbers of robber bands then, as now, infesting the country.

The enormities committed by Marquez in the capital formed another charge laid to poor Maximilian's door, but the following letter from him to his Lieutenant-General, which was intercepted by Escobedo, though carefully suppressed by him until after the trial and execution, shows tolerably clear how far those acts were by his authority or consent.

"Queretero,

"May 3rd, 1867.

"Senor General Marquez,

"After having been for some time without any news from the capital, we have just received at the same time, from different

sources, information that embitters our feelings. It relates to occurrences which we could wish were never made public out of regard, at least, to the dignity of our throne.

"When you left here for the capital you were, in consideration of the offer which you had made, invested with ample powers to organise a respectable division of men, which, with the pecuniary means that we needed, you were to bring to the relief of this place. But, contrary to your instructions, you undertook a tardy and hesitating move which failed to be of aid to the besieged city of Puebla, and caused the loss of the only regular force you could muster, owing to the disorder and unskilfulness of your retreat, which had all the appearance of a flight.

"We prefer not to speak at present of the terror and panic that induced you then to treat with the Liberals for a conditional surrender of the capital; we would wish, also, that we could pass over in silence the hatred you have aroused against the Empire by your use of vexatious and over cruel measures, which history will never explain in a favourable sense to us. Such acts

have produced their inevitable result. Not only is public opinion against us, but even our best friends, such as Generals Vidaurri, De la Portillo, Espejo, and others refuse to share in the responsibility of such misconduct.

"And while at the capital all the interests of society are injured in the endeavour to extort pecuniary means that are squandered, leaving in the public mind the conviction that they are used for criminal purposes, the long suffering and heroic army that defends this place has to struggle with hunger and is short of powder, while all the projectiles yielded by the melting down of the church bells are spent. With such conduct the Empire must necessarily succumb, for in this age of the world only such political institutions as are of public benefit can stand. Bad ones fail sooner or later; they can never survive.

"Our own conscience, however, is easy, because we have spared no kind of sacrifice, and whatever was possible for us to do has not been left undone.

"The unbounded confidence which we placed in the prominent men around us, and the use which

each one has made of that trust shall be the data upon which history will found its judgment of our actions, and as for ourselves we decline any share in the responsibility attending any act whatever of violence or wrong which we will neither authorise nor sanction.

"MAXIMILIAN."

The butcheries enacted at Puebla and Queretero were enacted at the capital, though not to so great an extent; but the Plazuella de San Juan could tell many a bloody tale of unfortunate Mexican officers of the higher grades, and citizens who had held office under the Empire. The most disgustingly cruel of these wholesale butcheries was that of poor old General Vidaurri, than whom a better soldier or a kinder-hearted man never existed. He it was who did all that human power could do to alleviate the sufferings of the starving citizens during the siege. Diaz had issued a decree, like Eseobedo at Queretero, that all officers not surrendering themselves within twenty-four hours would be instantly shot when

taken. Vidaurri had failed to comply with this order, and was after some days discovered concealed in the house of an American, named Wright, with whose family he was on terms of close friendship. The guard who were sent to arrest him found him in bed, when brutally striking him about the head with the butts of their muskets, they made him dress, and then bound his arms behind him with a lasso so tightly that the blood spurted out of his wrists. Miss Wright implored his captors on her knees to forbear from such cruelty; but to no purpose. This was at midnight. He was marched off to the guard room and thrust into a cell till daybreak, his arms still pinioned as before. At four o'clock he was marched to a suburb of the city, where was a large open space, used as a receptacle for all the rubbish and offal, deposited there by the scavengers and others.

His eyes were now blindfolded, and he was ordered to kneel down to receive his final doom. He did so, but the spot on which he knelt not being sufficiently dirty to please his executioners,

he was moved by them to another, when he was forced on his knees into the midst of a heap of the foulest filth they could find, and thus shot.

I could mention many other instances of equal brutality, but I am sure my readers are already wearied with the recital of so many horrors, and I will, with their permission, bid Mexico and the Mexicans a long adieu.

Our march to Vera Cruz had no incidents worthy of notice, the principal amusement consisting in the squabbles between the wives of some of the inferior officers, whose constant complaints, such as Madame This would have her large dog in the public carriage with her, and Madame That took up more than her fair share of room, &c., &c., afforded constant occupation to Colonel de Kodolitch, the commanding officer, in the capacity of peacemaker. My wife rode with me on horseback, as usual, and therefore was spared the infliction of these disagreeables. It was very sad, in our present condition, passing so many well-known spots where we had spent many a happy hour, and each of which was associated with some little reminiscence of the poor

Emperor or Empress. On arrival at Vera Cruz transports were already in waiting, which had been sent by the French and Austrian Governments for such of their subjects as might belong to the Imperial service. Most of the foreign troops, and officers from Queretero, had already joined us, the rest were soon to follow; and two days after our arrival at Vera Cruz we had all embarked, some direct for Europe, and others *viâ* New York, among which latter I and my wife were included, and bid farewell to Mexico for ever.

THE END.

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